MEDICAL AND CHIRURGICAL REFORM.

PROPOSED, FROM

A REVIEW

OF THE

HEALING ART,

THROUGHOUT EUROPE,

PARTICULARLY GREAT BRITAIN.

WITH CONSIDERATIONS ON

HOSPITALS, DISPENSARIES,

POOR-HOUSES, AND PRISONS;

OBSERVATIONS ON

The Apothecaries late Application to Parliament;

AND PROPOSALS FOR

GENERAL LEGISLATIVE REGULATIONS.

INCLUDING HINTS FOR IMPROVING

The Healing and Veterinary Arts.

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"Ours is the most noble of all arts."

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1797.

PRICE THREE SHILLINGS AND SIXPENCE.

MVSEVM
BRITAN
NICVM

ENTERED AT STATIONER'S HALL.

PREFACE.

IT may be proper to obſerve, to ſuch who are not already acquainted, that about two years ſince, a meeting was called, by public advertiſement, at the Crown and Anchor, of the apothecaries in London, to conſider on the beſt method of obtaining from the druggiſts the making up of preſcriptions, retailing of medicines, &c.

The correſpondence which the gentlemen, calling the meeting, had carried on with practitioners in the country, &c. was read, and it being agreed that the meaſure was both juſt and neceſſary, an aſſociation was formed; thoſe who choſe ſubſcribed a guinea, and a committee were appointed for carrying the plan into effect. Having long before been convinced of the degraded ſituation of the apothecary, and having maturely conſidered the modes of procuring redreſs, though I had no concern in calling the meeting, I ſhould have had no objection to have given any aſſiſtance in my power; but from the complexion of the buſineſs that evening, I was fully ſatisfied no good would reſult from the inſtitution, and therefore declined being elected one of the committee.

The firſt meeting having been ill-conducted, a ſecond was called: this, which ought to have been

for

for the committee to make their report, ſubmit their future intentions, and collect the opinion of every one preſent, on the means to be purſued; and chiefly to aſcertain whether negotiation with the druggiſts, conducted in a liberal and temperate way, or application to parliament, would be beſt ſuited to anſwer the ends propoſed, and to collect further ſubſcriptions; was, like the former meeting, ſpent in idle and intemperate declamation, not calculated to obtain the general opinion of the meeting on the plan beſt to purſue, or to forward the views of the inſtitution; but rather to excite oppoſition from the chemiſts and druggiſts, and others; who, accordingly, formed a ſubſcription to oppoſe the apothecaries.

The following printed letter, which I lay before the reader without comment, having been ſent me, I wrote eleven pages to the committee; recommending an attempt at negotiation with the wholeſale druggiſts, before any application ſhould be made to parliament; and if that ſhould not ſucceed, then to print their views in applying for an act, for the approbation or correction of all the town and country ſubſcribers; that the application might be made ſuch as the legiſlature could approve, and likely to benefit both the profeſſion and the public; but intemperate conduct obtaining in the committee, the ſecretary, who had then the chief controul, was ſo averſe to receive information from a ſubſcriber, though only ſubmitted for conſideration, that he would not even hear my letter read.

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Though the committee have not thought proper to inform the ſubſcribers of their ſecond application to parliament, or of their future views; it is known that they did again apply, and that their petition was treated by the houſe as ſuch a crude, partial, and haſty production could only deſerve.

To the Members of the PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION, *and to* APOTHECARIES *in general throughout* ENGLAND *and* WALES.

GENTLEMEN,

YOUR Committee are apprehenſive that they may be imagined by ſome, to whom the difficulty of their taſk is not fully known, to have been guilty of great delay in giving an account how far they have endeavoured to fulfil the truſt delegated to them. To efface entirely every imputation of this kind, it becomes neceſſary not only to ſtate diſtinctly the objects which they conceived themſelves directed to inveſtigate, but the means alſo which they have employed to obtain ſuch ſatisfactory evidence, as may be a foundation ſufficiently ſtrong for the future proceedings of the Aſſociation: from all which circumſtances your Committee feel themſelves compelled to conclude, that the importance as well as welfare of Pharmaceutic practitioners has experienced degradation and injuſtice; and that the people of this country are conſequently ſuffering from the ignorance and impoſition of vain and fraudulent pretenders.

As the abuſes of Pharmacy were the grand objects of their ſcrutiny, your Committee, at their firſt meetings, confined themſelves to the ſuggeſtion of means which might be calculated to produce general conviction upon a ſubject, the evil of which had been long to them more than ſuſpected; but of the extent of which it was impoſſible they could then form

any adequate conception: for they did not imagine that the lives of mankind were so generally entrusted to the ignorant, as the result of their enquiries obliges them now to acknowledge: and although they were prepared to meet a certain extent of mischief, they are sorry, from a conviction formed from incontestible authorities, to declare, that their researches have exhibited it to them in a very alarming degree.

To ascertain these abuses of Pharmacy, so as to take away every shadow of doubt, your Committee have sent prescriptions, written in the most common and obvious terms, to be prepared by various persons styling themselves chemists and druggists; and although the medicines compounded were from the same recipes, yet the compositions were in every instance materially different both from each other, and from what they ought to have been, and the directions for taking them were as various as the medicines compounded.

But a circumstance which your Committee think yet more dangerous to the public was at the same time discovered; for it was found that these very men, who were proved thus incompetent to prepare medicines, had the audacity to prescribe them; and who, disdaining the previous labours of education and study, usurped the place of the regular practitioner, directing applications, of whose effects they were ignorant, for diseases with which they were equally unacquainted. The consequences of this conduct we shudder to contemplate.

Such to your Committee appeared to be the abuses of Pharmacy in the metropolis; their enquiries did not stop there, for completely to fulfil their charge, a correspondence was opened with every principal city and town throughout the kingdom. In almost all of them persons calling themselves chemists and druggists were found, whose subsistence was derived from the adulteration of good by damaged medicines, and the sophistication of the expensive by the cheap; and notwithstanding open proofs of ignorance and danger, these very pretenders have assumed an appellation

calculated

calculated to convey to such as are unacquainted with Pharmaceutic Chemistry, an idea that from them only can be had genuine and well prepared medicines, a stratagem which your Committee have reason to lament, as having been too generally successful.

The frauds, indeed, are so numerous and of such extent, that competition for the truly honest man can produce nothing short of ruin: and deceptions like these must continue to triumph, unless the efforts of your Committee shall revive the application to Pharmacy, by establishing its importance and its use; by obtaining power to confine it to its just possessors; and thus rendering it neither dishonourable nor disadvantageous for young men to enter into the profession who have the advantages of a suitable education, and sufficient property to enable them to prosecute their studies to the necessary extent. How much the reverse of this has of late years been the case, every practitioner must be sensible—Assistants of competent abilities are not to be obtained, and the lamentable situation of our fleets and armies, for want of *such* Assistants, shews too clearly that the true source from whence they are accustomed to be procured is corrupted, or altogether inadequate to the purpose.

Having thus certified themselves of the existence of the evil and its universal extent, your Committee proceeded to take such steps as were necessary to awaken a general attention to the object in which they were engaged. The first of these was to inform the College of Physicians, the Company of Apothecaries, and the Corporation of Surgeons of London, that there existed such an association; that it had such evils to complain of; that it was occupied on the means for redress, and your Committee besought their aid and interest in the course they should take for the remedy so ardently desired; intimating, also, that an application to the Legislature was a measure in contemplation.

The next ſtep which your Committee thought beſt calculated to ſerve the purpoſe, was to requeſt a converſation with Mr. PITT, for beſides that the general object muſt of courſe intereſt him, it was their wiſh to excite his more particular attention, by ſtating clearly and fully, the ſituation of the fleets and armies. The Miniſter avowed himſelf convinced of the propriety of their purſuits, and expreſſed moſt feelingly his regret that a ſufficient number of proper medical attendants for his Majeſty's forces were not to be obtained. He recommended them to proſecute the object in view by an immediate application to Parliament. Conformably therefore to his opinion, a Petition, ſtating conciſely the grievances alledged, and praying for redreſs, was preſented to the Houſe of Commons the 6th day of February laſt, as a meaſure preparatory to the introduction of a future Bill. In this ſtate your Committee might have reſted and have craved your advice and authority for their further purſuits: but as from their numerous correſpondents, and their own inveſtigation, the evils are ſo clearly defined, they cannot cloſe the period of their labours without preſuming to ſuggeſt what will be neceſſary to be obtained for the completion of the object. In offering which, they beg leave to ſtate, that they have been actuated by a conſideration that the benefit to be derived ought to be reciprocal between the public and themſelves. The public ought to be aſſured of being enabled to apply with the confidence of meeting in the practitioner with a man of profeſſional ſkill and integrity, who ſhall be able to give them good advice, and compelled to furniſh them with genuine medicines, while the practitioner ought, on his part, to be rewarded for his application, attention, and riſk both of his perſon and property.

The firſt promoters of the Aſſociation have, for this purpoſe, been induced to hold out, as a precedent, the principles of a bill paſſed in Ireland, in the year 1791, to regulate Pharmacy in that kingdom; but your Committee is perfectly

aware,

aware, that the principles only of that bill can be reſorted to; for it would be deficient in its application to redreſs the evils exiſting in the preſent more degenerated ſtate of the profeſſion in this kingdom. Without referring unneceſſarily, therefore, to that act, it will be ſufficient to ſtate what your Committee have ſuggeſted, particularly as every part of the act applicable to this country will be included in what they have to offer.

The Committee deem it neceſſary, that to procure redreſs, the fundamental principles muſt be to require—

Firſt, That the ſole liberty to vend Pharmaceutical Preparations, compound Phyſicians' Preſcriptions, &c. &c. ſhall appertain to the apothecary—for as the apothecary neceſſarily attends patients without any emolument but what ſhall ariſe from the profits of the medicines he may vend, it will be folly to imagine that any perſon will ſubject himſelf to an expenſive education, and a waſte of time in apprenticeſhip, if men egregiouſly ignorant can obtain, under any other appellation, the ſame advantages, and without the ſame labour, or that hazard unavoidably, and often fatally, accompanying an attendance upon the infected ſick.

Second, That no young men be taken as apprentices who have not an approved education.

Third, That none be aſſiſtants without having been examined as to their competency for pharmaceutical compoſitions, &c. &c. &c.

Fourth, That none be at liberty to ſettle until examined; nor any perſon entitled to an examination unleſs he ſhall have faithfully ſerved an apprenticeſhip of five years at the leaſt.

Fifth, That beſides the above, the Committee be at liberty to accede to any propoſitions that may be recommended to them by the College of Phyſicians; whoſe advice towards framing a bill it is intended to ſolicit; and which, from the friendly expreſſions already made by that learned body, your Committee have good reaſon to hope they ſhall obtain.

Sixth,

Sixth, That, to promote these purposes, a competent Court should be established, to consist of *a certain number of members*, who should have full power to make such bye laws and regulations as they shall think may be most conducive to the welfare both of the Public and the Profession.

Your Committee meet on Thursday the 12th and 26th instant, and every Second and Fourth Thursday in every month, at the BUFFALO TAVERN, *Bloomsbury*, at seven o'clock in the evening, when the presence of any Professional Gentleman who can make it convenient to attend, will be highly esteemed, and as they deem it necessary, from the advanced state of the Sessions, that no time be lost in enabling them to pursue the object of preparing a bill, they entreat Gentlemen to meet within such districts as may be convenient, as early as possible, and communicate their observations to the Secretary, in such way as may best avoid a too voluminous correspondence, which has already been found inconvenient.

It will also be necessary to increase their Fund, which at present is but small, before your Committee can venture upon an application to Parliament.

JOHN LEWIS, SECRETARY.

Half-moon Street, Piccadilly.

To those who doubt of the apothecary labouring under great degradation and injustice, I will observe, that to my knowledge a great many have of late years quitted the profession in disgust, after an expensive education, to take up some new mode of life, where the application would be less constant and less arduous, and the recompence more adequate

to

to the ſervices done. A medical gentleman obſerves, "that the ſlave-trade can never be aboliſhed, while the apothecary's ſituation ſhall continue as at preſent." That the apothecary in town is frequently ſent for to a great diſtance, and required to go immediately, on the moſt trivial occaſions; as to conſult about inoculating a child at ſome diſtant period, or attending a lady at a diſtance of ſome months, which might have been explained by a note, and his viſit ſuited to his other engagements, or deferred to a future day; and that hurrying meſſages, of ſuch a nature, frequently are received in an ambiguous way, ſo as to cauſe him to be ſought in haſte, at a great diſtance, and often in an evening, or on a Sunday, every apothecary, of any practice, muſt have had many proofs; and not one farthing can be charged for theſe, and many other conſultations of a like nature, where no medicine is ſent, be the diſtance or hurry ever ſo great. Surely there can be no good reaſon, why an attorney ſhould have 3s. 4d. 6s. 8d. or 13s. 4d. for a conſultation, while an apothecary, whoſe education has often been more arduous and more expenſive, ſhould have no reward; eſpecially if called in caſes of emergency, perhaps in the night, where his ſervices are often great, and no ſecond viſit neceſſary; or, when it is, falls the next day to the uſual family attendants, the phyſician and the druggiſt.

That thoſe who practiſe in the country, and who often have had an expenſive and general education,

are frequently ſent for to a great diſtance, in bad roads, late of an evening, after the patient's men have done work; although this had been foreſeen, by the friends of the ſick, in the morning, ſo as to have to return in the night, every practitioner in the country has experienced; and though 1s. per mile is the uſual charge for viſits in the country, and the medicines ſent for; yet, any one being permitted to practiſe, without regular qualifications, has ſo degraded the profeſſion, even diſtant from the metropolis, that gentlemen of talents are often obliged to attend in midwifery caſes, for what would hardly pay the hire of their horſe, and often in cold nights and bad roads.

It becomes created beings to believe, that the Creator has made man a being every way fitted to his time and place, in the ſcale of creation. If we find *ſelf-love* and *reaſon* to be the urging and reſtraining principles of his nature, then ſhould men, in all their political inſtitutions, or general regulations, have theſe two principles in view. Self-intereſt being natural to man, public regulations ſhould ever turn it to the general advantage, by *making it the intereſt of all to promote the happineſs of all*, whether general or particular.

Thoſe who take charge of the health of the country, ſhould be obliged properly to qualify for the taſk; and if thoſe, who wanted their advice or aſſiſtance, knew *that a fee muſt always be given (proportioned to the diſtance and hour) when either was required*, then

then would it become their own intereſt (the only certain ſecurity) to conſider their apothecary as a rational creature, who had alſo an individual intereſt to purſue.—When all general laws ſhall make the *private* accord with the *public* good, then will *reaſon* and *juſtice* emerge from the back ground; philoſophy, or the ſtudy of *nature and nature's laws, be made the purſuit of both ſexes; and the healing art aſſume its due importance, and become a bleſſing to the world.*

The meaſles, in ſome caſes, may attack with peculiar ſymptoms of inflammation, and require the free uſe of the lancet, or of medicine; but I will venture to aſſert, that if every child, attacked with the meaſles (the ſymptoms of which are ſeldom ambiguous) were kept carefully in bed for four days in a moderately warm room, and ſupplied freely with only barley water and apple tea, that we ſhould then hear of but few children dying of the meaſles, though now a very fatal diſeaſe. The apothecary's intereſt now forbids his adviſing thus; indeed the uſe of the *faculty* of *reaſon* muſt become more general in *both ſexes*, and *fees given*, before it will be in his power. Dr. Franklin has ſaid, "God Almighty helps thoſe who help themſelves."

"Thus the men,
"Whom Nature's works can charm, with God himſelf
"Hold converſe; grow familiar, day by day,
"With his conceptions, act upon his plan;
"And form to his, the reliſh of their ſouls."

Were

Were further proof neceſſary to ſhew the beggarly and degraded ſtate of the profeſſion in this country, I might bring the following:

The priſoners in Ludgate, I have attended many years, daily, or oftener, in caſes of fever, accidents, &c. the whole reward is 10l. annually, for advice in all caſes of ſurgery, pharmacy, and midwifery; and alſo for furniſhing the neceſſary medicines. While the clergyman, for advice only, once a week, and that occaſionally diſpenſed with, has a ſalary of 30l. a year; and has, at this time, a petition before the Court of Aldermen, requiring an increaſe.

Any reſpectable attorney would ſcarcely attend to ſign a return of the priſon, weekly, (a part of my duty) for the ſalary which the ſurgeon is allowed.

When *Reaſon* and *Juſtice* ſhall become man's guide, will he diſcriminate no better?

Seeing lately, in a newſpaper, that the Pharmaceutical Aſſociation intended again to apply to parliament, I determined ſpeedily to publiſh my thoughts, and having obſerved the ſtate of the profeſſion in ſeveral counties, and alſo in this metropolis, and been ſettled as a practitioner in the latter for twelve years, I hope theſe pages may prove uſeful.

Finding that the ſurgeons were likely to be formed into a college, and the late Dr. Hunter's muſeum given to them, I have haſtened theſe pages, in the hope that parliament may receive ſome hints uſeful in forming the Surgeon's Charter; this expedition, (not allowing me time to copy any part of the manuſcript,)

ſcript,) and the uncertainty of profeſſional engagements, will, I truſt, plead my excuſe with the candid for any ſmall errors, which more leiſure might have prevented. I might have gathered uſeful hints from ſome of my medical friends; but as this alſo would have occaſioned delay, it has been entirely avoided, and no one will ſee any part of theſe ſheets, but myſelf and the printer, till they meet the public eye.

The PHYSICIANS I conſider a body of men, the beſt informed, in general ſcience, of any in the country; the Britiſh SURGEONS alſo deſervedly rank high for general learning and great dexterity: and I know APOTHECARIES, whoſe education and philanthropy would do honour to the profeſſion, were it in a leſs degraded ſtate. I know my mind is too HONEST and INDEPENDENT to fit me for a SYCOPHANT or a HYPOCRITE. I have written without intending to offend any individual; but, "ſhould the gall'd jade wince," the fault will not be mine; if PUBLIC ABUSES exiſt, ſuch are fair objects for inveſtigation. Satisfied that EVERY MAN, of EVERY CLIME, not prejudiced by education, or rendered ſavage by injuſtice, is my BROTHER and FRIEND; earneſtly hoping, that MY CHILDREN may live in times when DEPENDANCE, BIGOTRY, and POVERTY, ſhall be leſs general; and when TITLES or BIRTH, without TALENTS and VIRTUE, ſhall be little eſteemed; and, hoping for the entire approbation of the honeſt and liberal, in every department of our profeſſion,

profeſſion, I conclude;—ſatisfied that I have written theſe pages with a view to promote MAN's HAPPINESS and MY COUNTRY's GOOD, I contemplate their effects with pleaſure, and my conſcience approves the deed.

"The man that's born, his ſpecies to protect,
"Sees guilt in ſloth, and robb'ry in neglect;
"He owes the world, whatever nature gave,
"And pays the debt, by being *juſt* and *brave*."

Stamford Street, Surry Road, May 3d, 1797.

T. CHAMPNEY.

THE REGULATIONS, &c.

I SHALL not follow a late author on medical reform, by tracing how the healing art was divided amongſt its profeſſors, in the times of Hippocrates and Galen, (though it might eaſily be proved that Hippocrates, Celſus, and the chief of the ancients, practiſed equally in all the branches of the profeſſion, Hippocrates himſelf performing all the operations in ſurgery, with the ſingle exception of lithotomy), but rather give, what appears to me more uſeful, the regulations and reſtrictions under which it was practiſed in the principal nations of Europe, up to the year 1783; and alſo the ſtate of the profeſſion in our own country; and ſhall then offer ſuch further regulations as I conſider adapted to the ſtate of ſociety in which we now live, and which may be deſerving the

conſideration of the legiſlature: for if an act of parliament is to be paſſed, the good of the nation requires that it ſhould be ſuch as ſhall produce the greateſt good, with the leaſt poſſible injury.

The following are the regulations which were in force at the above period.

RUSSIA.

In Ruſſia the regulations were made by Dr. Erſkine, a Scotchman, who was appointed, by Peter the Great, chancellor of a medical court or chancery, which regulates every thing reſpecting either phyſicians, ſurgeons, or apothecaries, throughout that vaſt empire. This court conſiſts of a chancellor or preſident, vice-preſident, and ſeveral ſecretaries. The vice-preſident attends the chancery twice every day, to receive reports from the different provinces of the empire, and the fleets and armies; and to tranſmit the chancellor's orders for their conduct, &c. and on extraordinary occaſions, a number of phyſicians and ſurgeons are convened by the preſident to aſſiſt with their advice. There is one chancery at Peterſburg and another at Moſcow.—No perſon is ſuffered to practiſe in Ruſſia, till he has

been examined by this chancery, and procured a written teſtimonial of his qualifications; and if any perſon preſumes to preſcribe or adminiſter medicines, in any part of Ruſſia, without firſt having been examined by the chancery, he is liable to ſuffer the knoute, (a tremendous whipping), to be ſent to the gallies during pleaſure, and to forfeit all he is worth, one half to the emperor and the other to the informer.

No apothecary is allowed to give medicines without orders from a phyſician or ſurgeon. At every apothecary's ſhop a ſurgeon is appointed, with a ſufficient ſalary to attend daily two hours, forenoon and afternoon; and if the patients are not able to pay for their medicines, they are placed to the emperor's account. The apothecaries receive all their medicines from the chancery, and are in fact employed by government; there are, indeed, a few private apothecaries, but theſe are ſubject to the rules of the chancery equally with the others.

Every ſurgeon in Ruſſia, whether in the ſervice of government or not, muſt, in all difficult caſes, call for the advice of a phyſician or ſenior ſurgeon; nor is any ſurgeon allowed to perform an operation on a pa-

tient, without firſt having had the advice and concurrence of ſuch, if poſſible to be procured. If this regulation is neglected, and the patient dies, or ſhould have reaſon to complain of his treatment, the ſurgeon would be puniſhed. Phyſicians, alſo, in difficult or dangerous caſes, are obliged to apply for a conſultation.

HOSPITALS, &c.—There are two large hoſpitals in Peterſburg; one for the army, the other for the navy. Each hoſpital has an anatomical theatre, large enough to contain three hundred ſtudents; and alſo a diſſecting room adjoining to each theatre. Each hoſpital is attended by ſeveral phyſicians, a principal ſurgeon, five ſurgeons in ordinary, ten ſurgeons-mates, and twenty ſtudents. There are likewiſe teachers of phyſic, ſurgery, and anatomy, belonging to each hoſpital; and a profeſſor of botany, who inſtructs the ſtudents of both hoſpitals, which adjoin each other. The buſineſs in theſe, and every other hoſpital in the Ruſſian empire, is conducted in the following manner: Every morning, at ſix o'clock, a bell is rung to warn the phyſicians and ſurgeons to get ready; at ſeven it rings again, to ſummon them to repair immediately to the

ward where the patients are, who require ſurgical treatment. From this ward the ſurgeons proceed with the phyſicians through all the remaining wards. The ſurgeons-mates write down, in a day-book, what the phyſicians preſcribe for each patient; and, after all the patients have been viſited, go with the ſtudents of the hoſpital to the apothecary's ſhop, where they attend to the preparation of the medicines, then carry them to the reſpective wards, and exhibit them as was directed. One of the ſurgeons in ordinary is obliged to be conſtantly in the hoſpital; the reſt of the ſurgeons may attend their private patients, but muſt return at ſeven o'clock in the evening; but the mates (not being ſuffered to practiſe) and the ſtudents, are all obliged to remain in the hoſpital, which they cannot leave without the permiſſion of the principal ſurgeon.

Reports of the number of ſick entered, cured, who have died, and remaining under cure, with the names, &c. of their diſeaſes, are ſent to the medicine-chancery every week. If any complaint is made either of a phyſician, ſurgeon, or ſurgeon's-mate, for non-attendance a ſingle day, a month's pay is deducted from his ſalary; and on thoſe

who bear no rank, corporal puniſhment is inflicted. If any of the attendants give any other medicines, meats, or drinks to a patient, than what have been ordered by the phyſicians or ſurgeons, they undergo a ſevere whipping.

DENMARK.

The Royal College of Phyſicians, in Copenhagen, may be conſidered as a court for regulating the practice of the healing art throughout the Daniſh dominions, as it is conſulted by government on all matters relative thereto, and takes cognizance of all abuſes committed by medical practitioners.

No perſon is allowed to practiſe throughout Denmark, as a phyſician or ſurgeon, till he has gone through a regular courſe of ſtudy, and undergone a public examination in phyſic, ſurgery, and midwifery. Apothecaries and midwives are likewiſe examined by the college, before they can obtain a licence to practiſe. No patents are granted for diſpoſing of empirical medicines, which are prohibited throughout Denmark under very ſevere penalties. Practice of phyſic, materia medica, ſurgery, botany, chemiſtry, midwifery, natural philoſophy, natural

natural hiſtory, and the veterinary art, &c. are taught by profeſſors in the univerſity.

There are in Copenhagen naval and other public hoſpitals, a lying-in-hoſpital, &c. alſo a medical ſociety.

There is alſo in Copenhagen a public inſtitution, the whole expence of which is defrayed by government, for attending all the poor at their own houſes: three phyſicians, three ſurgeons, and ſeveral aſſiſtants are employed in attending this inſtitution. In every diſtrict of Denmark, a phyſician and ſurgeon are appointed and paid by the king, to attend the poor, and to take care that the regulations of the College of Phyſicians are duly obſerved. Regular reports are alſo ſent from each diſtrict to the college, in caſe of epidemics, &c.

SWEDEN.

In Stockholm, Upſal, Lund, Abo, &c. are colleges for teaching phyſic, natural hiſtory, botany, anatomy, ſurgery, natural philoſophy, agriculture, chemiſtry, &c. and in Stockholm there are a royal college of phyſicians, a ſociety of ſurgeons, public hoſpitals, &c.

HUNGARY.

Hungary has alſo an univerſity, where pathology, practice of phyſic, anatomy, phyſiology, materia medica, chemiſtry, botany, ſurgery, midwifery, natural hiſtory, &c. are regularly taught.

GERMANY.

In the Univerſity at Vienna, practice of phyſic, botany, chemiſtry, pathology, materia medica, anatomy, diſeaſes of the eyes, midwifery, ſurgery, natural hiſtory, &c. are taught by the ſeveral profeſſors.

In Prague the different branches in phyſic, ſurgery, midwifery, &c. are taught. At Berlin are alſo taught, in the Royal College, every branch of phyſic, anatomy, midwifery, &c. At Gottingen, Mentz, Leipſic, Inſpruck, Keil, &c. are profeſſors, who teach medicine, ſurgery, &c. in every department.

The phyſicians, as well as ſurgeons, of Liege are incorporated: before a ſurgeon is allowed to practiſe, he muſt ſubmit to an examination by the aſſeſſors of the college and the ſurgeons of the town, who are convened for that purpoſe.

The

The apothecaries are obliged to ſerve an apprenticeſhip of five years, and to undergo an examination by the aſſeſſors of the college, before they are allowed to follow their profeſſion. Phyſicians, who have graduated in any univerſity, are admitted of the college without examination.

HOLLAND.

There are two profeſſorſhips at the Hague, for anatomy, midwifery, ſurgery, and botany; and there are ſimilar inſtitutions in almoſt every large town throughout the United Provinces. The profeſſors lecture in Dutch. There is not any hoſpital at the Hague; but the ſick poor are viſited at their own houſes, by four phyſicians and four ſurgeons, who are paid by the magiſtrates, and have each their reſpective diſtricts. At Leyden, the examinations for a degree in phyſic are ſuch as muſt preclude any one, not well qualified, from offering himſelf. Beſides lectures in the univerſity of Leyden, on every ſcience connected with medicine, there is a public library, and alſo a botanic garden for the uſe of the ſtudents. In the hoſpital at Amſterdam, the phyſicians and ſurgeons muſt attend twice a day.

There

There are medical ſocieties at the Hague, Amſterdam, and ſeveral other towns in Holland.

AUSTRIAN NETHERLANDS.

In Bruſſels there is a college of phyſicians. The ſurgeons are alſo incorporated. The apothecaries are not allowed to preſcribe. In Ghent there is alſo a college of phyſicians, and the ſurgeons are incorporated.

In Louvain, there are ſaid to be generally above five thouſand ſtudents in the univerſity, about three hundred of whom are qualifying for the practice of medicine.

No perſon can practiſe in the Auſtrian Netherlands without being a licentiate of this univerſity. No ſtudent is permitted to attend the hoſpital till he has been three years a pupil in the univerſity, where all the branches of phyſic and ſurgery are taught.

FRANCE.

The faculty of phyſic, in Paris, is a college to which every one practiſing phyſic muſt belong. A doctor of the college is annually elected preſident, and five others, to deliver lectures on pathology, phyſiology,

gy, chemiſtry, ſurgery, and materia medica. Theſe lectures begin the firſt week in October. Six Members of the faculty meet at the college every Monday morning, at ten o'clock, to preſcribe gratis to the poor for two hours. The faculty's library is open every Thurſday.

The ſurgeons of France have a very elegant college, where are apartments for the uſe of the Academy of Surgery, in which every maſter ſurgeon of Paris has a ſeat, and moſt of the other ſurgeons of France are extraordinary, or correſponding, members; the meetings are held weekly. The college has an elaboratory, alſo an infirmary for patients, who are to undergo any particular operation; an amphitheatre for lectures, capable of accommodating a thouſand ſtudents, a library, &c.

To be admitted of the College of Surgeons, it is neceſſary to have ſerved five years with one of the members; to have taken a degree of M.A. in ſome French univerſity, to undergo a number of examinations; and, laſtly, to defend a theſis in the public ſchools.

Beſides the ſurgeons of Paris, there are a certain number of perſons licenced by this college, under the title of *Expertes Occuliſtes*,

liſtes, Dentiſtes, ou Herniaires. Every one applying for ſuch licence, muſt have ſerved, at leaſt, two years under a maſter ſurgeon, and ſubmit to an examination before he dare to practiſe; and ſhould any one aſſume the title of ſurgeon, or practiſe in any other branch of the art than that for which he is licenced, a penalty of 300 livres would be inflicted. Profeſſors on the following ſubjects were paid by the king, and their lectures might be attended by ſtudents free of any expence: phyſiology, two teachers; pathology, two; theraputics, two; midwifery, for the inſtruction of midwives, one; midwifery, for ſtudents in ſurgery, one; ſurgery, one; chemiſtry, one; anatomy, two; on operations, two; on diſeaſes of the eye, one.

The apothecaries of Paris are incorporated, and have a good botanic garden.

There are other apothecaries in Paris, who are entitled to the privilege of diſpenſing medicines, by their belonging to the court, or having ſome other public appointment. There are ſchools for anatomy, chemiſtry, and botany, in (what was called) the King's Garden; all theſe branches were taught publicly at the king's expence, and the

the botanic garden was open to the public; and alſo the muſeum, every Monday and Thurſday. There were eight profeſſors and demonſtrators paid for inſtructing ſtudents in this garden.

Beſides many other hoſpitals in Paris for different diſeaſes, the Hotel Dieu uſually had three thouſand patients: one in five are ſaid to have died of all who were admitted.

At Lyons, the phyſicians and ſurgeons are both incorporated, and ſome of the members of the College of Phyſicians are annually elected, to give lectures in the town-houſe, on chemiſtry, anatomy, ſurgery, and botany.

At Montpelier univerſity, the profeſſors lecture chiefly in French, and the public library is open once a week. There are in Montpelier ſeven public teachers in phyſic and anatomy, and nine in the different departments of ſurgery and midwifery.

In Straſburg univerſity are ſix public teachers in phyſic, ſurgery, &c. The ſurgeons are alſo incorporated. By an old law, which is very ſtrictly obſerved, the number of apothecaries ſhops in Straſburg is not to exceed ſix: the owner, wiſhing to decline practice, may appoint an adminiſtrator

ſtrator to act in his name, who, however, muſt firſt be approved of by the faculty of phyſic there.

At Nancy there is a college of phyſicians, with a good library and an excellent botanic garden, where ſeveral profeſſors lecture on the different branches of phyſic, &c.

The ſurgeons are alſo incorporated on a ſimilar plan to the Royal Academy of Surgery at Paris, conſiſting of ordinary, honorary, and correſponding members.

The apothecaries at Nancy are alſo incorporated; their number is limited to eight.

ITALY.

There are colleges of phyſicians in Rome, Turin, and ſome other cities of Italy; and in Modena, Pavia, Padua, &c. Practice of phyſic, ſurgery, midwifery, and philoſophy, are regularly taught by the different profeſſors; but, in the ſmall towns and villages of Italy, the phyſicians are paid by a tax on the inhabitants, at the rate of about two ſhillings for each perſon: theſe appointments are called *condottas*. If a village is too ſmall to ſupport a phyſician, two or three others are joined with it, to form a condotta, and their common phyſician is enabled to keep a horſe,

a horſe, a mule, or a carriage. If, on the other hand, the place is too large for one phyſician, the corporation has more than one ſalary to appoint, and more than one condotta to diſpoſe of. The ſmalleſt condotta brings in about thirty, and the largeſt ſeventy or eighty pounds a year; and almoſt all the families of a condotta, whether they have occaſion for their phyſician or not, ſend him ſome little preſent at Chriſtmas and Eaſter. Surgeons are appointed to condottas in the ſame manner as phyſicians. As for apothecaries, there are none but in great cities; and even in them their number is ſmall. They are not allowed to preſcribe; but any body that chuſes may ſet up for one, after paſſing the uſual examinations.

SPAIN.

The practice of phyſic throughout Spain is regulated by a court for the purpoſe, called the Protomedicato, conſiſting of ſeveral phyſicians. No phyſician is allowed to practiſe till he has been examined and approved by this court. There are twenty-two univerſities in Spain, in each of which

are

are three profeſſors, who teach the various branches of the healing art.

To be allowed to practiſe ſurgery, a perſon muſt have ſerved four years with a maſter ſurgeon, or have attended an hoſpital for that period, and afterwards paſs an examination, and be approved by the Protomedicato.

AMERICA.

In America, I am told, that the profeſſors of the healing art are not much diſtinguiſhed into different claſſes; but that, imitating nature, (who has frequently ſo mixed diſeaſes, that where the phyſician's province ends, or the ſurgeon's begins, none can tell) every one practiſes in all the branches of his profeſſion; and that a moderate fee is taken each viſit; every one ſending the medicines, or remedies, he preſcribes. The practice of midwifery (except in large towns, where they are, perhaps, too fond of ſome European cuſtoms) being chiefly in the hands of females; men only being called in caſes of danger, or in child-bed diſeaſes.

We

We cannot expect, that in ſo young a country, public eſtabliſhments, for teaching every branch of knowledge connected with the healing art, ſhould be numerous. We may, however, hope that a ſcience and art, above all others, capable of relieving the ſufferings of mankind, will receive early attention in that extenſive country; and that eſtabliſhments on liberal, rational, and extenſive principles, will ſoon be formed in each ſtate of the Federal Union, where every ſcience, that can tend to ameliorate and improve the condition of man, will be taught their youth of both ſexes; and above all others, perhaps, chemiſtry, botany, mineralogy, and all the different branches of the healing art are deſerving of their moſt early attention. Aided by theſe and the other ſciences, and looking through nature up to nature's God, we may encourage a hope, that the riſing generation, in the new world, will learn never to forget, that, to preſerve ourſelves, and render our fellow creatures happy, is the beſt ſervice we can offer our Creator: that knowledge increaſes virtue, by ſhewing in what the happineſs of man conſiſts, and how the creation can beſt be uſed for the general advantage.

That ſuperſtition and bigotry are ever the enemies of a free ſtate, making man uncharitable to his neighbour, for only a difference of opinion, and fitting him only for a tyrant or a ſlave: that all nature ſhews man was meant for active life, and, therefore, that ignorance and indolence are the ſource of nearly all the evils he endures: that wiſdom and vigilance are the great duties of all; and that to underſtand minutely the ſocial compact, of which he forms a part, and to contribute all in his power to prevent abuſes from time, and to render it more perfect, ſo that the general ſum of happineſs in the nation may conſtantly be increaſing, is a duty entailed on every individual living in ſociety: that there are public duties, in every country, for each to perform; and from ſo many not underſtanding their intereſts, or neglecting their public duties, it is that the ſtate of civil ſociety has, till this period, afforded ſo little general happineſs. And when it is conſidered by Americans, that the laws of many ſtates in the union differ from others, both in the value of money, religious toleration, and other points of importance; the great extent of their country, the immenſe

family

family eſtates that muſt, in a ſhort time, accumulate; the many pretended teachers of a ſaving faith, as the road to another world, who are unacquainted with the laws by which the preſent is governed, with which that country is ſaid to be overrun, and who invariably have the ignorant in their power; and, above all, that the firſt principal of man is ſelf intereſt, the neceſſity for wiſdom and vigilance, and the ſtudy of political ſcience for all, muſt become ſelf evident. Let then convulſed Europe ſhew, ere too late, the neceſſity for univerſal inſtruction.

When noble aims have ſuffer'd long controul,
They ſink at laſt, or feebly man the ſoul;
While low delights, ſucceeding faſt behind,
In happier meanneſs occupy the mind.

IRELAND.

Previous to the reign of Charles II. the phyſicians of Dublin not being incorporated; nor having any college or public inſtitution for the ſtudy of the healing art, and the inhabitants being extremely ignorant and ſuperſtitious, like every other country in a ſimilar ſituation, phyſic was in the hands of empirics and mountebanks; the dawn of reaſon then beginning to diſplay itſelf, in the nineteenth

year of that reign, the phyſicians of Dublin were incorporated; but their juriſdiction did not extend more than ſeven miles round the city. However, in 1762, in the reign of William and Mary, a charter was granted, which extended the juriſdiction of the college to all parts of the kingdom.

The fellows are here admitted, in general, as a matter of form, being doctors of phyſic of Trinity College, and not by examination. The college have power to compel all phyſicians, practiſing in Dublin, except graduates of Dublin, Oxford, or Cambridge, to ſubmit to an examination, and take out a licence, under penalty of 10l. a month: this, however, is ſaid never to have been put in practice. There was, ſo long ago as 1711, ample proviſion made for a profeſſorſhip of phyſic, by Sir Patrick Dunn, who left an eſtate, which, in 1783, is ſaid to have brought in 800l. a year; and yet, at that period, we are told that no profeſſorſhip had been eſtabliſhed in Dublin; but that their youth, inſtead of being taught gratis at home, were obliged to ſeek for inſtruction, at a great expence, in a foreign country, chiefly Edinburgh, Leyden, or Paris.

In 1783, as there was no diſtinct corporation

tion of ſurgeons, the ſurgeons ſtill being incorporated with the barbers; ſo was there no regular mode of ſurgical education; and any man who choſe might follow the profeſſion: the conſequence of which was, that Dublin was crowded with irregulars of every ſpecies; as dentiſts, occuliſts, and men midwives, who ſeldom had ſerved any time except to pharmacy. The hoſpitals, though numerous, were then in general poor, and far from being well provided for, moſt of them depending on precarious ſubſcription.

The hoſpitals in Dublin are as follow: St. Patrick's, for lunaticks and idiots, founded by Dr. Swift in 1745.

Mercer's Hoſpital, for ſick poor, contains ſixty-two beds: the phyſicians viſit the out-patients Mondays and Fridays, and the in-patients Tueſdays and Saturdays. One of the ſurgeons attends every day in rotation, and both phyſicians and ſurgeons attend gratis.

The Lying-in Hoſpital was newly erected in 1757, and great numbers have benefited by this inſtitution.

The Charitable Infirmary was opened in 1728, and is attended gratis by the phyſicians and ſurgeons.

The Hoſpital for Incurables admits forty-two patients, who are maintained and furniſhed with clothes gratis; conſtables, and others, receive half a guinea on bringing in any perſon who is found expoſing their deformities in the ſtreets.

St. Nicholas's Hoſpital was opened in 1753, and contains forty beds for the reception of ſurgical patients; one ſurgeon in turn attends gratis, daily, from 8 till 10 o'clock.

The Meath, now the County Hoſpital, is a large building, lately erected, at upwards of 2000l. expence. The phyſicians and ſurgeons attend gratis, having reſigned to the hoſpital the bounty of 100l. annually paid them by government.

The Lock Hoſpital, inſtituted in 1755, admits about one hundred and thirty patients every year, and the annual expences have ſeldom exceeded 160l.

The Infirmary for ſick and wounded ſoldiers, is attended by a ſurgeon and an apothecary.

Infirmaries have been erected, by act of parliament, in every county in Ireland, by a tax on the inhabitants; the ſurgeons to which are paid, and paſs an examination previous to their appointment.

Simpſon's Hoſpital is for poor, afflicted with blindneſs, gout, &c.

An Experimental Society, for promoting natural knowledge, was inſtituted in 1777: they meet weekly, and diſtribute three gold medals annually.

This account refers as far back as 1783, ſince which period an act of parliament has been paſſed for regulating the practice of the healing art in Ireland; which has, I underſtand, much benefited both the public and the profeſſion. I lament not being able to give the heads of that act, not having peruſed it; and to procure a copy would occaſion a delay, which it is my wiſh to avoid.

JAMAICA.

The Iſland of Jamaica has two botanic gardens, which were eſtabliſhed by vote of aſſembly in 1775, in the neighbourhood of Kingſton, with a liberal ſalary, houſe, &c. for a botaniſt, with a view to introduce into the iſland every vegetable production capable of being cultivated to advantage, either for medicine, food, pleaſure, or commerce. One of theſe gardens conſiſts of ſeventy acres, and has two climates, the tropical, and that of Madeira. The other conſiſts of

fifty acres, for the reception of the plants of cold climates, being more than three thouſand ſix hundred feet above the level of the ſea.

SCOTLAND.

The Univerſity of Edinburgh is an inſtitution which does credit to that country, and was firſt uſed as a ſchool of phyſic in 1685; but the regular plan, in imitation of Leyden, was not begun till the year 1720, ſince which time it has juſtly been conſidered one of the beſt ſchools of phyſic in Europe. From the latter end of October to May, lectures are given on every branch of the healing art, and the ſciences connected, as theory and practice of phyſic, and clinical lectures; anatomy and ſurgery; chemiſtry; materia medica; botany; midwifery; mathematics; natural philoſophy; natural hiſtory, &c. Botany in ſummer, and chemiſtry and midwifery are continued all the year. The ſtudent pays three guineas to each profeſſor whoſe lectures he attends for the ſeſſion; three guineas to the infirmary for the privilege of attending the practice of phyſic and ſurgery there for the ſpace of one year; and a further ſum of three guineas, if he at-

tends the clinical lectures, without which he cannot viſit the clinical wards. The ſum of half-a-crown, (or any larger ſum,) entitles each ſtudent to the uſe of the library, where he may attend to read three days a week; or he may take any number of books home, on depoſiting their value till returned. In June and September, a day is ſet apart for conferring degrees, which, in all the Scotch univerſities, are only Maſter of Arts and Doctor. Twenty-two profeſſors belong to the univerſity.

The botanic garden conſiſts of five acres, and is laid out into the School of Botany, where the plants are ſyſtematically arranged, on each ſide of which are placed the officinal plants, ſhrubs, and trees: this diviſion contains about two thouſand ſpecies of plants. On the weſt is the ſylva botanica, where the tender plants are protected by hardy trees, and ſo arranged, that a ſpecimen of each may be ſeen in walking. In this diviſion is the conſervatory. A plantation near has had about three thouſand plants of the true rhubarb growing many years.

The ſtipend of the profeſſor of anatomy is 50l. per annum; of botany near 80l. The

Royal

Royal College of Phyſicians was formed in 1681, by King Charles II. By this charter they were enjoined to viſit all the apothecaries ſhops within the city and liberties of Edinburgh, at leaſt twice a year, and deſtroy all inſufficient and corrupted drugs; this part of their duty, however, is ſaid to have been long neglected.

They have five ſtated meetings every year. When officers are elected annually, the college firſt chuſe ſeven electors, who conſtitute the council for the enſuing year: theſe electors retire and nominate a preſident, two cenſors, a ſecretary, treaſurer, fiſcal, and librarian: on returning, the chair being taken, a vice-preſident is then named.

Quarterly meetings are held for the admiſſion of licentiates, election of fellows, &c. No perſon can be elected a fellow, unleſs he has been previouſly admitted a licentiate of the college; and by a law, of late date, no licentiate can be promoted to a fellowſhip, who practiſes midwifery or ſurgery.

The licentiates are entitled to practiſe within the liberties of the city, but are not ſummoned to the meetings of the college. Doctors of phyſic, in either of the Scotch univerſities, are entitled to a licence on merely

merely paying the fees, which amount to about 55l. Graduates of other univerſities are required to undergo an examination, at which all the fellows have a right to aſſiſt. In the election of a licentiate to a fellowſhip, it is required that he ſhall be propoſed at a quarterly meeting by one of the fellows; this motion being duly ſeconded, is to be determined at the next enſuing quarterly meeting by ballot, and a majority of votes is ſufficient for the election of the candidate.

To encourage the ſtudy of botany, a gold medal is given annually to the ſtudent who produces the beſt Hortus Siccus. The ſtudent, on his matriculation, generally gives more than the half-crown which the ſtatutes require to the library: this money, with the ſum of 5l. paid by each profeſſor at his admiſſion, goes towards the purchaſe of books, &c. The library of the college is fifty-feet long, thirty broad, and twenty high, with a gallery on three ſides.

The conſervatories in the botanic garden extend one hundred and forty feet in front, and conſiſt of a green-houſe in the centre, and a hot-houſe at each end.

The ſurgeons of Edinburgh were incorporated by the magiſtrates of that city, ſo early

early as the year 1505. This incorporation was confirmed, and new privileges granted by charter, in the reign of King William III. and lately a new incorporation has taken place, by charter of 1770, under the name of the Royal College of Surgeons: by this charter they are empowered to eſtabliſh a fund for the widows and children of their members, to which each member is obliged to pay 5l. a year, and dying after four yearly payments, his widow receives 25l. annually. If he dies a widower, leaving children, they are entitled in the whole to 100l. All the ſurgeons in Edinburgh practiſe as apothecaries; but no perſon is allowed to practiſe ſurgery or pharmacy there, till he has been admitted of this college; nor in the ſhires of Edinburgh, Berwick, Fife, Peebles, Selkirk, and Roxburgh, till he has been examined and approved by the College of Surgeons of Edinburgh.

The Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh is a ſpacious building, but ſome of the wards always being kept empty, for the ſake of being well aired, the number of patients, in the houſe at one time, ſeldom exceeds one hundred and eighty. It is ſaid, that ſince the year 1741, the number of deaths in this

hoſpital

hoſpital has been only in the proportion of one in twenty-five.

In the attic ſtory is a lying-in ward, containing ten beds. To purify this ward, no patients are admitted from the middle of July to the middle of November, and none are admitted at any time, but ſuch as will ſubmit to be delivered by the ſtudents.—Two ſmall wards (one for men, the other for women) are ſet apart for ſuch patients as are to be the ſubjects of the clinical lectures, and theſe are viſited every day by one of the clinical lecturers, with the ſtudents; and twice a week a clinical lecture is delivered. Three phyſicians attend the infirmary patients, and all the members of the college of ſurgeons in rotation, four being appointed annually for that purpoſe. The Public Diſpenſary, (inſtituted in 1776,) for ſuch patients as are improper caſes for an hoſpital, is attended gratis twice a week by two phyſicians, and is ſupported by ſubſcription. Lectures on the patients caſes are given to the pupils, and the teachers of midwifery have lying-in-houſes, which their pupils attend.

The Philoſophical Society, begun in 1731, is held once a month, and each gentleman

is

is expected to deliver a paper on ſome ſubject of natural knowledge, in rotation; which when read, is given to two members, who are expected to examine and deliver in a written report on its merits at the next meeting; and ſuch are publiſhed as are thought deſerving of public notice.

The Medical Society, incorporated by charter in 1778, have a hall, and the meetings are weekly during the winter; each member in rotation delivering in a paper, on ſome ſubject connected with the healing art, for public diſcuſſion. In electing an ordinary member, three votes reject the candidate. When an ordinary member has delivered in a certain number of papers, or obtained the good opinion of the ſociety, he is uſually elected an honorary member: the votes, in this caſe, muſt be unanimous; a diploma is then given, and the perſon continues to have all the privileges of an ordinary member; but is freed from the obligation of attendance, delivering in papers in rotation, &c. Four members are annually elected to fill the chair in rotation, as preſidents.

A library, and a muſeum for curious ſubjects in anatomy and natural hiſtory, form a part

part of the ſociety's hall, which is ſpacious, and on which the ſociety have expended a conſiderable ſum of money.

ABERDEEN.—The Univerſity of Aberdeen was founded in 1747, and conſiſts of two colleges, to each of which there is a profeſſor of phyſic.

There is alſo an infirmary in Aberdeen, which uſually contains from eighty to ninety patients, beſides thoſe who are not admitted into the houſe.

The phyſicians, all over Scotland, thoſe of Edinburgh excepted, generally practiſe ſurgery, and alſo diſpenſe their own medicines.

DUMFRIES has an infirmary, erected in 1777, which contains forty beds.

SAINT ANDREWS.—The univerſity here was founded in 1411, and conſiſts of two colleges; the medical profeſſorſhip was founded by the Duke of Chandos, with a ſalary of 50l. a year.

LANERK has alſo an univerſity, with two medical profeſſorſhips, and one for natural philoſophy.

GLASGOW.—The Faculty of Phyſic, conſiſting of the phyſicians and ſurgeons of Glaſgow, was incorporated by charter, granted

ed to Mr. Peter Low, ſurgeon; and Mr. Robert Hamilton, profeſſor of phyſic; and their ſucceſſors, by James VI. of Scotland, in 1599. The members of the faculty are bound by their charter to meet once a month, to give advice to the poor gratis, if any attend for that purpoſe. They have alſo a power of examining and licenſing practitioners reſiding in the ſhires of Lanerk, Renfrew, Dumbarton, and Air; and to interdict them, if found diſqualified. A plan has been formed for a fund for the widows and children of the faculty. At their hall is a medical library, which is increaſing, 20l. being laid out annually in books.

ENGLAND.

The Royal College of Phyſicians of London, was firſt eſtabliſhed in the reign of Henry VIII. by an act, the preamble of which ſets forth, that "Foraſmuch as the ſcience and cunning of phyſic and ſurgery, (to the perfect knowledge whereof be requiſite both great learning and ripe experience) is daily within this realm exerciſed by a great multitude of ignorant perſons, of whom the greateſt part have no manner of inſight into the ſame, nor in any other kind

of

of learning; ſo far forth, that common artificers, as ſmiths, weavers, and women, boldly and accuſtomably take upon them great cures, and things of great difficulty, in the which they partly uſe ſorcery and witchcraft, partly apply ſuch medicines unto the diſeaſe as be very noxious, and nothing meet therefore, to the high diſpleaſure of God, great injury to the faculty, and the grievous hurt, damage, and deſtruction of many of the king's liege people, moſt eſpecially of them that cannot diſcern the uncunning from the cunning." This act then ſays, that no perſon ſhall practiſe phyſic or ſurgery, within the city of London, or ſeven miles thereof, without being firſt examined and approved by the Biſhop of London, or the Dean of St. Paul's, (who ſhall call to their aſſiſtance four doctors of phyſic; and for ſurgery, other expert perſons in that faculty), upon pain of being fined 5l. for every month ſuch perſon ſhall practiſe, without being thus admitted. By this act ſimilar powers were given to the biſhop of every dioceſe, for the examination of perſons practiſing in the country.

Seven years afterwards, in the 10th of Henry VIII. the phyſicians were incorpo-

rated into a college, with a power to elect a preſident, have a common ſeal, purchaſe lands, and to make ſtatutes and ordinances for the government and correction of the college; and of all perſons practiſing within the city of London, or within ſeven miles thereof. This act likewiſe ſays, "that no perſon ſhall be permitted to practiſe in any county of England or Wales, without firſt being examined by, and receiving letters teſtimonial from the preſident, and three or more of the elects; unleſs he be a graduate of Oxford or Cambridge; but even a graduate of Oxford or Cambridge has no right to practiſe within ſeven miles of the city, until he has been admitted of the college. The letters teſtimonial are granted after a ſingle examination in Latin, commonly on different ſubjects of anatomy, phyſiology, and the practice of phyſic; and then the name of the perſon to whom they are granted, and the county he means to practiſe in, are regiſtered in the college books. Theſe privileges have ſince been confirmed by different acts. In 1540, 1553, and 1723, acts were paſſed, exempting the members from ſerving pariſh offices; giving power to the preſident to commit to priſon

perſons offending againſt the rules of the college; and to empower the cenſors of the college, calling to their aſſiſtance the wardens of the apothecaries, to enter, in the day time, any apothecary's ſhop, within ſeven miles of London, to examine the medicines; and they may deſtroy all drugs, &c. not meet to be uſed in medicine. Perſons reſiſting ſearch are to forfeit 10l.

By act made in 1774, the college are empowered to elect annually five fellows, as commiſſioners for licenſing houſes for the reception of lunatics, within ſeven miles of London, or in any part of the county of Middleſex; they are empowered to receive 10l. or 15l. for a licence, according to the ſize of the houſe. No licence can authorize any perſon to keep more than one houſe; and any perſon who, without ſuch a licence, keeps more than one infane patient, is liable to forfeit 500l. No licence is granted without recognizance in 100l. with ſureties.

Perſons ſo licenſed are, within three days after the admiſſion of a patient into their houſe, (except in the caſe of paupers, ſent by the pariſh officers), to give notice to the ſecretary, in writing, of the name of the patient, together with the names and places of

abode of the perſons by whoſe orders he has been received; and of the phyſician, ſurgeon, or apothecary, who has certified that he is inſane. The commiſſioners are empowered to inſpect licenſed houſes, as often as they ſhall think proper; and keepers, refuſing them admittance, are to forfeit their licence.

By the ſame act, ſimilar powers are veſted in juſtices of the peace for the different counties of England and Wales, above ſeven miles from London, or out of Middleſex. Nothing in the act extends to public hoſpitals. Dr. Harvey gave, during his life time, an eſtate in Kent of forty-ſeven acres, for the purpoſes of inſtituting an annual dinner, on the 18th of October; a gratuity to the perſon (which is each fellow in turn) who ſhall deliver a Latin oration on that day; and as a proviſion for the college librarian. Dr. Caldwell and Lord Lumley laid a rent charge on their eſtates, of 40l. a year, to ſupport lectures on anatomy and ſurgery. In theſe lectures it was, that Dr. Harvey, who was appointed to read them in 1615, firſt publicly delivered his doctrines concerning the circulation of the blood. Dr. Croone alſo laid a foundation for public

lectures

lectures on muſcular motion; and Dr. Gulſton, who died in 1632, bequeathed 200l. for founding lectures on any medical ſubject which the lecturer ſhould prefer. Theſe laſt were to be read between Michaelmas and Eaſter, by one of the four youngeſt fellows of the college. The Gulſtonian lectures are to be delivered in Engliſh, the other in Latin; and each inſtitution was for three diſcourſes.

Beſides the Manſion-houſe, and near four hundred acres of land in Eſſex, bequeathed by Dr. Baldwin Hamey in 1708, the college have had many legacies of books, money, &c. at different periods. The members of the college are divided into three claſſes: fellows, candidates, and licentiates, who are all allowed to practiſe; but the two latter claſſes have no ſhare in the management of the college. Phyſicians, who have graduated at Oxford or Cambridge, or at Trinity College Dublin, after going through the uſual examinations, are admitted into the claſs of candidates, and the year following are received as fellows. Phyſicians, who have graduated in any other univerſity, can only be admitted as licentiates. Formerly it was underſtood, that a licentiate, of ſeven

years ſtanding, might be a candidate for a fellowſhip; but the college, by a bye-law of their own making, (viz. by the fellows,) refuſe now to examine any licentiate for a fellowſhip, who is not of their own chuſing. This was conteſted, and loſt by the licentiates, in Lord Mansfield's time, and is now pending in the Court of King's-bench before Lord Kenyon; the college having refuſed to examine Dr. Stanger, who has preſented himſelf for that purpoſe.

Formerly perſons were admitted into the claſs of licentiates, without having taken any degree in phyſic; but a regulation was made ſome years ago, to prevent any one being examined for a town licence, who is not a Doctor of Phyſic, of at leaſt twenty-ſix years of age, and who has not ſtudied for two whole years in ſome reputable univerſity. Both fellows and licentiates, before their admiſſion, muſt undergo three examinations in Latin, at three ſeveral monthly meetings, before the preſident and cenſors; and, if approved, are uſually admitted at the next enſuing quarterly meeting. There are four ordinary and fixed meetings (comitia majora et ſolemnia) of the college during the year. The officers are, a preſident and four

cenſors

cenſors elected annually, who examine ſuch phyſicians as preſent themſelves to the college, to be admitted as candidates or licentiates; ſeven elects, out of which number the preſident is choſen, and who are empowered, in conjunction with the preſident, to examine and grant teſtimonials to phyſicians intending to practiſe in the country; a treaſurer and a regiſter.

No buſineſs can be tranſacted at either of theſe meetings, unleſs the preſident and twelve fellows are preſent.

Beſides theſe four quarterly, there are monthly or leſſer meetings, (comitia minora) which are compoſed of the preſident and cenſors, and are chiefly intended for the examination of phyſicians, who preſent themſelves to be admitted of the college; or of the preſident and three or more elects, for granting of teſtimonials to phyſicians practiſing in the country.

The college publiſh a Pharmacopæia, by which all apothecaries in the kingdom are obliged to prepare their officinal medicines. A Pharmacopæia was publiſhed in 1745, another in 1771, and the laſt in 1791.

The examination fee, for a town phyſician, is 50l. and for an extra licentiate 10l.

The College is in Warwick-lane, near St. Paul's.

The Corporation of Surgeons.

The act first restraining the practice of physic and surgery in England, had not long passed, when, in the thirty-second year of Henry VIII. the surgeons were incorporated with the barbers, under the united title of Barbers and Surgeons.

In the fifth of Charles I. the surgeons were, by letters patent, authorised to elect ten of their members to be examiners; and it was then ordered, that no person should practise surgery within the liberties of London and Westminster, or within seven miles thereof, without having been previously approved by two or more of these examiners: and this sanction was sufficient authority for practising surgery in any part of England. The surgeons continued incorporated with the barbers, having the same common hall till 1745, when an act of parliament was passed, making them distinct and separate companies, when the surgeons were incorporated under the name of the Master, Governors, and Commonalty of the Art and Science of Surgeons of London. By this

act,

act, which confirmed all their former privileges, as exemption from parish offices, &c. they were empowered to elect a master, two wardens, and a court of assistants; in all twenty-one persons, ten of whom are examiners. The estate and hall, with a spacious theatre for anatomy, were given to the barbers, except the sum of 5101. and a rent charge of 16l. which had been given to the united company; the former by Edward Arris, for annual lectures on the muscles; and the latter by John Gale, for one anatomical lecture: both these sums were assigned over to the surgeons. There were other clauses in this act, to enable the new company to make bye-laws, and to elect a master and wardens annually, on the first Thursday in July. They were likewise appointed to examine every candidate intending to serve as a surgeon or surgeons-mate, either in the army or navy; and his rank takes place according to the qualification allowed by the court of examiners.

Soon after this, the company erected a hall in the Old Bailey, with a theatre for anatomical lectures, and other spacious apartments; but this hall has lately been sold for barracks for the City Militia, and a spacious

ſpacious houſe, in Lincoln's-inn-fields, purchaſed, as a hall for the company. The court of examiners meet on the firſt and third Thurſdays of every month, for the purpoſe of admitting members, and examining ſurgeons and ſurgeons-mates for the army and navy. The examinations are in Engliſh, and the members, who mean to practiſe in the country, pay only half the admiſſion fees; but ſign a bond to pay the remainder, in caſe they ſhall come to reſide and practiſe in London, or within ſeven miles. The admiſſion fee is 27l. 11s.

The company's beadle calls on each town member for what is called quarterage; which, at preſent, amounts only to ten ſhillings a year; but can be advanced to any ſum, and at any time that the maſter, wardens, and court of aſſiſtants may think proper, without their aſſigning any reaſon, they alone having the entire controul over the company's concerns, and elect whoever themſelves think proper into office; ſo that the reſt of the town ſurgeons neither have a vote for the laws which bind them, nor yet for the perſons who make theſe laws. Oh! ſhame, where is thy bluſh!

When

When an apprentice is bound to a ſurgeon, within the juriſdiction of the court, it muſt be done before the Court of Examiners, where he is examined as to his knowledge of the Latin language, and muſt be bound for ſeven years, at the expiration of which he is admitted of the corporation, on paying the uſual fees, viz. about 28l.

Society of Apothecaries.

This company conſiſts of a maſter, two wardens, twenty-one aſſiſtants, a livery of one hundred and twenty-ſix members, and an unlimited yeomanry.

At the time of their incorporation, in 1617, there were only one hundred and four apothecaries ſhops within the city and ſuburbs of London. In their hall are two elaboratories; one for chemical, and the other for Galenical preparations. The fund for each of theſe departments conſtitutes a ſeparate ſtock, which is divided into a number of ſhares, the proprietors of which muſt be members of the company. No perſon is allowed more than one ſhare in each fund.

The fund for the chemical department is called the elaboratory ſtock; and that for the Galenical, the navy ſtock: the medicine

cheſts

chefts for the navy being fupplied from the Galenical fide of the hall. The proprietors of the navy ſtock alſo furniſh the medicine chefts for the Eaſt India Company. A committee of managers, and a certain number of auditors to examine the accounts, are chofen annually, by ballot, for each department.

The company have a botanic garden at Chelſea, which was bequeathed to them by the late Sir Hans Sloane, on condition of their delivering to the Royal Society annually, fifty ſpecimens of plants, the growth of this garden, until the number ſhould amount to two thouſand. A botanic lecture is occaſionally given here, by the company's demonſtrator; and excurſions are frequently made into the country, to collect plants, or to dine together.

When this company was incorporated, in 1617, the admiſſion fine was only 16l. but their trade, as wholeſale druggiſts and chemiſts, has been ſo lucrative, that the admiſſion fine (for they too can make bye-laws) is now raiſed to 100l. Their hall is in Water-lane, Blackfriars.

PUBLIC

Public Hospitals, Dispensaries, and Medical Societies in London.

St. Bartholomew's Hospital, in Smithfield, was founded by Henry VIII. in 1539, and in 1729, being in a ruinous ſtate, it was begun to be rebuilt by ſubſcription, and now forms a handſome ſquare, and has ſpacious airy wards, for the reception of above four hundred patients, with a hall for the meetings of the governors, and apartments for the treaſurer, ſteward, apothecary, &c.

Three phyſicians, three ſurgeons, and three aſſiſtant ſurgeons, attend this hoſpital three days in the week. Thurſday is the day for taking in patients, and on Saturday all ſuch operations are performed as have been determined on, and which admit of delay. The fee for a ſurgeon's pupil is 25 guineas for a year, and if allowed to dreſs the patients, 50 guineas. A like ſum of 25 guineas, paid by a phyſician's pupil, gives him the privilege of an unlimited attendance. A medical ſociety, ſimilar to that at Guy's Hoſpital, has lately been attempted here, but is not at preſent very flouriſhing. The bedſteads are of iron. A governor pays 5ol.

ST. THOMAS's HOSPITAL, in the Borough, was founded by Edward VI. in 1533. It is an irregular building, conſiſting of three ſquare courts, built at different times, and contains nineteen wards, beſides a chapel, a large hall, apartments for the different officers, &c. The wards are well ventilated, and furniſhed with iron bedſteads for upwards of four hundred and ſixty patients. There is a theatre for anatomical lectures, and another for ſurgical operations.

Three phyſicians and three ſurgeons attend this hoſpital three days a week. Thurſday is the day for taking in patients, and Friday the day on which the principal operations are performed. The fee for ſurgeon's pupil is 25l. for a year, and 50l. for a dreſſer. If the ſurgeon's pupils go round with the phyſicians, while preſcribing, a further fee of 5 guineas and a half is taken of each. The ſurgeons, here, do not in general preſcribe medicines, even for their own patients. To become a governor, the payment is 50l.

GUY's HOSPITAL, in the Borough, was founded in 1721, by Thomas Guy, a bookſeller of London; it contains about four hundred and thirty beds, beſides a ward for

for lunatics; a ſpacious elaboratory and an excellent ſet of baths have alſo lately been erected, at a conſiderable expence: the bedſteads are of iron.

Three phyſicians and three ſurgeons attend the patients: the apothecary has apartments in the hoſpital.

The pupils for a year pay as at St. Thomas's; patients are taken in on Wedneſdays, and the operation days are Monday and Wedneſday.

Surgeon's pupils, attending the practice of the phyſicians, and their clinical lectures, pay an extra fee of 10 guineas.

The fee for perpetual phyſician's pupil, at either St. Thomas's or Guy's Hoſpitals, is 22l.

The ſurgeon's pupils, entering for a year at either hoſpital, are allowed to ſee the practice of both, and may attend for two ſeaſons. A governor of St Thomas's Hoſpital, having paid 50l. becomes alſo a governor of Guy's, without further expence.

The Westminster Infirmary, in James-ſtreet, inſtituted in 1719, contains one hundred and ten beds.

Three

Three phyſicians and three ſurgeons attend the patients. The apothecary reſides in the houſe.

The phyſician's or ſurgeon's pupils pay 20 guineas each, for a year. The taking in day is Wedneſday, and the operation day Saturday. A governor's ſubſcription is 3 guineas annually.

ST. GEORGE'S HOSPITAL, Hyde Park corner, was opened for the reception of patients in 1734, and contains about two hundred and ſeventy beds; thoſe governors, who are apothecaries, attend as viſiters, to ſee that the houſe apothecary does his duty.

This hoſpital is attended by four phyſicians, four ſurgeons, and one aſſiſtant ſurgeon. An apothecary lives in the houſe.

A phyſician's pupil pays, for a year, 20 guineas, and is perpetual for 24 guineas. A ſurgeon's pupil pays 20 guineas for a year, and none are admitted as perpetual.

Taking in day Wedneſday, operation days Monday and Friday. A governor pays 50l. or 5 guineas annually.

THE LONDON HOSPITAL, Mile-end Road, was inſtituted in 1740, and incorporated in 1758. It contains about one hundred and ſixty beds. Such governors as practiſe

any branch of phyſic, form a committee, that meet once a month to inſpect the medicines uſed in the hoſpital. The bedſteads are of iron.

This hoſpital is attended by three phyſicians, three ſurgeons, three aſſiſtant ſurgeons, and a houſe apothecary.

The fee for ſurgeon's pupil, for a year, is 30 guineas, phyſician's pupil 20 guineas. The taking in day is Tueſday, the operation days are uncertain. A governor's ſubſcription is 30 guineas for life, or 5 guineas for an annual governor.

THE MIDDLESEX HOSPITAL, at the end of Berner's ſtreet, for ſick or lame patients, and lying-in women, was inſtituted in 1745, and the preſent building erected in 1755. It contains about one hundred and fifty beds.

It is attended by two phyſicians, two phyſician men-midwives, and four ſurgeons. There is a reſident-apothecary.

The fees for phyſician's or ſurgeon's pupils are alike, being 20 guineas for a year. The taking in day is Tueſday, and the operation day, Thurſday, weekly.

A life governor pays 30 guineas, an annual governor from 3 to 5 guineas. The lying-in women are attended at their own

houſes by midwives, and alſo by a phyſician, if needful.

Bethlem Hospital, in Moorfields, for lunatics, was founded by Edward VI. in 1533. The preſent building was erected in 1676. It will contain about three hundred patients, one hundred of whom are incurables. Patients who have not been inſane more than twelve months, are admitted and allowed to continue for one year, when they are diſcharged, but are readmitted, in their turn, as incurables. Patients who have been mad a longer time, or who have been diſcharged uncured from any other lunatic-hoſpital, are admitted in the month of April, and allowed to remain here for ſix months. The patients friends pay for their bedding. A committee of governors meet every Saturday for admiſſion of patients.

One phyſician, one ſurgeon, and one apothecary belong to this eſtabliſhment. Fifty pounds conſtitute a governor.

The Lock Hospital, near Hyde Park, inſtituted in 1747, for cure of the venereal diſeaſe, contains about forty beds, and is attended by one phyſician and two ſurgeons. Viſiting pupils pay 20 guineas per annum.

One

One houſe pupil is taken, who pays 50 guineas for a year. Patients are admitted on Thurſdays. A governor's ſubſcription is 5 guineas per annum, or 50 guineas for life. The bedſteads have not any curtains or tops, but are of wood.

THE BRITISH LYING-IN HOSPITAL, in Brownlow-ſtreet, was inſtituted in 1749, for the reception of poor married women only; and is attended by two phyſicians, two conſulting phyſicians, two ſurgeons, and an apothecary.

THE CITY OF LONDON LYING-IN HOSPITAL was inſtituted in 1750; but the governors have ſome years ſince erected a handſome building in the City Road.

It is attended by one phyſician, two phyſician men-midwives, two ſurgeons, and an apothecary.

ST. LUKE'S HOSPITAL, for lunatics, erected in 1751, contains one hundred and ten beds, eighty of which are for the accommodation of patients whoſe inſanity is of a recent date, and who are treated medicinally, under the direction of the phyſician, for the ſpace of one year, if they remain ſo long uncured. They are then diſcharged, to be readmitted in their turn amongſt the incur-

able patients, for whoſe uſe the other thirty beds are ſet apart.

A committee of governors meet every Friday to admit patients. The patients are taken in without any expence, and according to the order of time inwhich the petitions of their friends have been delivered to the ſecretary. A new building, in Old-ſtreet Road, which will contain three hundred patients, was ſome years ſince erected. This hoſpital is attended by one phyſician, one ſurgeon, and a reſident apothecary. The bedſteads are of wood. Twenty guineas make a governor for life. The bond of two ſubſtantial houſekeepers in 100l. to take the patient away when diſcharged by the committee, is required by their laws.

WESTMINSTER NEW LYING-IN HOSPITAL, Surry ſide of the Bridge, was erected in 1765, and is attended by three phyſicians and one ſurgeon.

THE SMALL-POX HOSPITAL was inſtituted by ſubſcription in 1746, not only for relief of patients in the ſmall-pox, but likewiſe for extending the practice of inoculation, and did conſiſt of two houſes at Pancras and in Cold-bath Fields, in the firſt of which the patients were prepared for inoculation,

culation, and ſent to the other when the diſeaſe appeared; but the houſe in Cold-bath Fields is now given up, and a building erected adjoining the other at Pancras: both together will contain two hundred patients.

One phyſician attends this hoſpital, and there is a reſident apothecary.

Patients are admitted every day from nine till eleven o'clock.

Thirty guineas make a life governor, and 5 guineas an annual governor. The bedſteads are all iron, and ſome of an uſeful conſtruction for raiſing patients up in their beds, without the aid of bed-chairs. The phyſician, Dr. Woodville, has lately publiſhed a Hiſtory of Inoculation.

THE MISERICORDIA, or Hoſpital for cure of indigent perſons afflicted with the venereal diſeaſe, near Goodman's Fields, was inſtituted in 1774, and is attended by a phyſician and two ſurgeons.

THE NEW GENERAL LYING-IN HOSPITAL, in Store-ſtreet, for the reception of females, is attended by midwives and the pupils of Drs. Oſborn and Clarke.

THE DISPENSARY, for adminiſtering medicines, &c. to the Infant-poor, inſtituted in

1769, is attended by two phyſicians and one ſurgeon.

THE CHARITY, for delivering poor married women at their own houſes, was inſtituted in 1760: the duties are fulfilled by three phyſicians. The treaſurer, who diſpenſes the medicines, is a druggiſt.

THE GENERAL DISPENSARY, Alderſgate-ſtreet, was inſtituted in 1770. This, as well as the other diſpenſaries, is attended by one or more phyſicians, and one or more ſurgeons, at the diſpenſary-houſe, about three times a week, to preſcribe to ſuch poor as bring a letter from a governor; and ſuch as are confined, are viſited at their own houſes. An apothecary reſides in the houſe of each diſpenſary. A governor ſubſcribes one guinea annually, or 10 guineas paid at once make a governor for life.

Some of the others have an eſtabliſhment for attending midwifery patients at their own houſes.

THE WESTMINSTER DISPENSARY, in Gerrard-ſtreet, was inſtituted in 1774.

THE GENERAL MEDICAL ASYLUM, in Welbeck-ſtreet, was inſtituted in 1776.

THE LONDON DISPENSARY, in Norton Falgate, was inſtituted in 1778.

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THE SURRY DISPENSARY, in Southwark, was inſtituted in 1778.

THE MIDDLESEX DISPENSARY, in Houndſditch, was inſtituted in 1778.

THE DISPENSARY, for general inoculation, was inſtituted in 1777.

THE FINSBURY DISPENSARY, in Clerkenwell, was inſtituted 1780.

THE EASTERN DISPENSARY, in Whitechapel, was inſtituted in 1782.

THE BENEVOLENT INSTITUTION, for delivering poor married women at their own habitations, was inſtituted in 1779.

THE ROYAL HUMANE SOCIETY was inſtituted in 1774, in imitation of one eſtabliſhed in 1767, at Amſterdam. The intention is to inform the country of the beſt methods of reſtoring ſuſpended life, from drowning or other cauſes, and to ſtimulate to long exertion in thoſe caſes. Four guineas are given whenever life has been reſtored; and frequently a ſilver medal, with appropriate motto, is voted to the medical aſſiſtant, who attended the patient; with one of which I ſome years ago was honoured. Two guineas are alſo given to the perſons who have been active in attempting to reſtore life, though unſucceſsful, provided the

mode of treatment preſcribed by the ſociety has been perſevered in for two hours. Medical practitioners are appointed aſſiſtants in different parts, in and near London, to be called to accidents in their neighbourhood, and receiving houſes are appointed, and drags are depoſited in ſeveral places adjoining the river; books of the treatment which the ſociety recommend to be uſed in caſes of ſuſpenſion of life, from drowning or other cauſes, may be had gratis of Dr. Hawes, the Treaſurer.

A SOCIETY was lately formed, for ſupplying the ruptured poor with truſſes gratis. The ſociety ſtate, that including every age, ſex, and condition, not leſs than one in twenty are ruptured. The uſefulneſs of ſuch an inſtitution cannot be doubted. Subſcriptions are received at Vere and Co's Bankers, No. 77, Lombard ſtreet.

A SOCIETY has lately been eſtabliſhed, and is now in a proſperous ſtate, for the relief of the widows of medical men, on a plan ſomewhat ſimilar to thoſe formed in Scotland.

Societies for Improvement of Medical Knowledge.

The London Medical Society, now held in Bolt-court, Fleet-ſtreet, was inſtituted in 1773. The meetings are held every Monday evening, for medical converſation, and reading ſuch papers as are ſent in for that purpoſe. The ſociety has generally publiſhed a volume, annually, of ſuch papers as have been thought moſt deſerving the attention of the world.

The ſociety has a public meeting on the 8th of March, every year, when a gold medal, value ten guineas, is given to the author of the beſt diſſertation on a ſubject propoſed by the ſociety, to which the learned of all countries are invited as candidates. Two ſilver medals are alſo annually diſpoſed of, one for the beſt eſſay or eſſays, read before the ſociety during the year, written by a fellow; and the other for the beſt eſſay or eſſays by a correſponding member, or by any perſon not a member of the ſociety. After the medals have been publicly delivered to ſuch gentlemen, whoſe papers the council has adjudged to deſerve them, an oration, on ſome ſubject connected with

the healing art, is then delivered by ſuch fellow of the ſociety as may have been choſen for that purpoſe at the preceding anniverſary; after which the ſociety dine together.

The gold medal for the year 1797 was offered to the author of the beſt practical diſſertation on any one or more diſeaſes, not generally known, peculiar to artificers in any branch of manufactures.

The gold medal for 1798, will be adjudged to the author of the beſt experimental eſſay upon the medical properties of charcoal.

The gold medal for 1799 will be adjudged to the author of the beſt diſſertation on the following queſtion: "What are the effects of the different gaſeous fluids, upon expoſed ſurfaces of the animal body in a ſtate of health and diſeaſe?" It is deſired that every anſwer may, as far as poſſible, be founded on actual experiments, or well-authenticated facts.

Regulations. — 1ſt. Each diſſertation ſhall be delivered to the ſecretary, in the Latin, Engliſh, or French language, on or before the 1ſt day of November, of the preceding year; and the adjudication of the

medal

medal ſhall take place in the laſt week of the enſuing February.

2d. With each diſſertation ſhall be delivered a ſealed packet, with ſome motto or device on the outſide, correſponding with one on the diſſertation, and inſide the letter the author's name and deſignation muſt be wrote, that the ſociety may know how to addreſs the ſucceſsful candidate.

3d. No paper, with the name of the author affixed, can be received; and if the author of any paper ſhall diſcover himſelf to the council, or to any member thereof, ſuch paper ſhall be excluded from all competition for the medal.

4th. All the diſſertations, the ſucceſsful one excepted, ſhall be returned, if deſired, with the ſealed packets unopened.

N.B. No paper having been received before November laſt, for the medal of 1797, two gold medals will be diſpoſed of this year, provided ſatisfactory papers ſhould be ſent to the ſociety.

Dr. J. C. Lettſom has been a great benefactor to this ſociety: a ſpacious freehold houſe, fitted up for the purpoſe; a ſum of money in the funds, the intereſt of which provides the annual gold medal; repeated donations

tions of books, and money towards eſtabliſhing the library, are all donations from that gentleman; and clearly ſhew the great intereſt which he has taken in this inſtitution. By theſe and other benefactions, the ſociety are likely ſoon to have one of the beſt medical libraries in England.

Every candidate for admiſſion as a fellow, muſt be recommended by three or more fellows, on their perſonal knowledge; this recommendation, containing the deſcription, place of abode, &c. muſt be delivered to one of the ſecretaries or regiſter, and firſt read in the council, that they may be ſatisfied the perſon recommended has been informed of the regulations of the ſociety, and is eligible according to its ſtatutes. It is then to be read at the enſuing meeting of the ſociety, and hung up in the common meeting room for ſix ſucceeding ordinary meetings; and on the laſt of theſe meetings, the vote is taken by ballot, if not leſs than eight fellows are preſent, and if three-fourths of the fellows preſent ballot in favour of the candidate, he is declared duly elected; after which he pays an admiſſion fine of 2 guineas, and ſubſcribes to obſerve the ſtatutes, and pay an annual contribution of 1 guinea.

The

The ballot is taken with balls, and a tin box, marked *yes* and *no*. The ſociety have both honorary and correſponding members in almoſt every part of the world.

THE PHYSICAL SOCIETY of Guy's Hoſpital, is an inſtitution from which practitioners, as well as ſtudents, derive much information. The meetings are held every Saturday evening, from the 1ſt of October to the laſt of May.

The buſineſs is conducted in the following manner: at ſeven o'clock the names of the ordinary members are called over; viſiters declared by the preſident; the public minutes of the preceding meeting read; medical news enquired for; and the remarks which may be ſuggeſted in conſequence thereof. This to be concluded at eight o'clock. The diſſertation, which each ordinary member is obliged to produce, on ſome medical, chirurgical, or philoſophical ſubject in his turn, having been read over by the author on a former night, is then read by the preſident, pauſing at each ſentence, to give liberty to objections or obſervations from any one preſent, and to the reply of the author, who muſt attend to defend his paper. This diſcuſſion is continued till half paſt nine, when,

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if the paper is not gone through, the diſcuſſion is reſumed the following night of meeting. The public buſineſs cloſing at half paſt nine o'clock, the weekly ſubſcription is then collected, which is only 6d. and this, with the admiſſion fines, after defraying the neceſſary expences of the ſociety, is laid out in medical, chirurgical, and philoſophical books for the uſe of the members; but no book is lent out of the library, without its full value being depoſited with the librarian; and any member, keeping a book longer than the time allowed, forfeits 6d. for each day he ſo keeps it, and alſo the money depoſited, or replaces the book with one of equal value, in caſe it is loſt or injured: a very neceſſary regulation this, for all ſocieties, who intend to preſerve their libraries. It was lately agreed to inveſt this library in the hands of the ſix preſidents (choſen annually to preſide in turn) in truſt for the ſociety. The London Medical Society have alſo appointed ſeven truſtees, in whom to inveſt their library, &c. a neceſſary precaution for all ſocieties not eſtabliſhed by a charter.

THE LYCUEM MEDICUM LONDINENSE, formerly held at Dr. Hunter's lecture room, Leiceſter-ſquare, and now at Drs. Cruikſhank

and

and Baillie's, is a ſimilar inſtitution, where diſſertations are produced by the members in turn, for public diſcuſſion; and where the ſurplus money is laid out in providing a library. Every one muſt admit the great advantage of ſuch inſtitutions, where the prevailing diſeaſes are generally the ſubjects of medical news, and where a paper is read every night of meeting, on ſome ſubject of medicine, ſurgery, midwifery, or philoſophy, where every one preſent has free ſcope for diſplaying his talents, in confirming or refuting the doctrines of the author, in free debate, regulated, ſo as to be uſeful, by the preſident for the evening. When I laſt wrote a paper for the diſcuſſion of this ſociety, it was held at Dr. Hunter's, and very well attended. Why its meetings have been lately diſcontinued, and what have become of its library and other property, deſerve to be ſeriouſly enquired into; for thoſe, whoſe admiſſion fines and ſubſcriptions laid its foundation, or promoted its proſperity, have a right either to be ſummoned to meet as uſual, to have the library, &c. given up, that it may be again eſtabliſhed on an equally uſeful plan elſewhere; or to have ſome ſatisfactory account from thoſe

who

who at preſent hold the property, reſpecting their intentions.

There was formerly a ſociety, well attended, ſimilar to the preceding, at Mr. Sheldon's anatomical theatre; but when that gentleman declined to lecture, the ſociety ſuffered, and was kept ſome time from decay, by the voluntary ſubſcription of a few members, who met at a tavern weekly; but who at length broke up, and divided the library; amongſt which number, myſelf, being then a ſtudent, was one.

There are ſeveral other aſſociations of medical practitioners, of a private nature, who meet occaſionally at a tavern, as the licentiates of the College of Phyſicians. Some of theſe have publiſhed periodically, as the Society for the Improvement of Medical Knowledge, which is held once a fortnight at Old Slaughter's Coffee-houſe.

Beſides the lectures on anatomy, ſurgery, practice of phyſic, midwifery, chemiſtry, &c. delivered by the phyſicians and ſurgeons of the ſeveral hoſpitals, there are other gentlemen, of great reſpectability, in London, who give public lectures on anatomy, ſurgery, chemiſtry, philoſophy, botany, &c. The lectures, except on botany, generally

commence

commence the beginning of October, and end in May, during which period two courſes are given. For each courſe of lectures pupils uſually pay about 3 guineas; and for 8 or 10 guineas, may be conſidered entitled to an unlimited attendance. The pupils, attending lectures on anatomy, uſually ſtudy practical anatomy at the ſame time, for which further fees are paid, ſimilar to the lectures, of about 3 guineas each courſe, or from 8 to 12 guineas for a perpetual pupil; beſides which, other expences muſt occur in attending practical anatomy: and to the ſums to be paid for attending the practice of any hoſpital, the reader muſt add the fees expected by the different officers, &c.

The British Museum and the Royal Society, though objects of national grandeur and utility, I forbear to mention in detail; but the Muſeum of the late Dr. Hunter was collected and prepared with ſuch aſſiduity and expence; and from the preparations of diſeaſes, and the ſpecimens of human and comparative anatomy which it contains, is ſo well calculated to become of uſe to the profeſſion and the public, that it would be a diſgrace to the nation, to ſuffer a collection,

ſo conducive to its honour, to be removed from England; but if purchaſed by the nation, and given to the corporation of ſurgeons, it ſhould be under ſuch regulations, as to afford free acceſs to all the profeſſors of the healing art, whether natives or foreigners; which would make England reſpectable in the eyes of foreign ſtudents, and become of great national utility. But to be of advantage, all monopoly muſt be entirely rejected; for if, like the ſanctum ſanctorum of old, it ſhould only be viewed by the choſen few, it will reflect diſgrace, rather than honour, on the nation, and its public uſefulneſs be wholly done away.

To thoſe who can be gratified by a general diſplay of the animal and mineral kingdoms, with many vegetable productions, and curious works of art, the LEVERIAN MUSEUM, over Blackfriar's Bridge, will afford much ſatisfaction; and may at any time be viewed for the ſmall ſum of one ſhilling; or, for one guinea, admittance is obtained for three months.

I have given the regulations under which the healing art now is, or lately has been practiſed, in the ſeveral countries with which we are beſt acquainted; and alſo thoſe

which

which have been adopted at ſeveral periods in our own country: I now proceed to comment on the latter, and to offer ſuch obſervations as I truſt may prove uſeful, ſhould the legiſlature undertake to regulate the practice on a general and liberal plan, ſo as effectually to benefit both the public and the profeſſion; and ſuch a regulation only I would wiſh to promote.

THE PHYSICIAN.—In the Royal College of Phyſicians of London, the fellows take the whole management of the pecuniary, as well as all the other, concerns of the college, and make ſuch bye-laws as they at any time think proper; ſo that the licentiates, though more than twice the number of the fellows, have nothing to do with the laws but to obey them, and when they dare to reſort to a court of law for redreſs, (as is the caſe with Dr. Stanger at this time, in the King's Bench), the fund, which their admiſſion fines have in a great meaſure furniſhed, is expended in keeping them from being examined for the rank of fellows; nor are they admitted, unleſs through a private invitation, to partake of the dinner provided annually at the college. That a body of men, ſo learned, and ſo capable of underſtanding their rights as

the licentiates, ſhould ſo long have endeavoured in vain to aſſiſt in making the laws by which they are governed, and to have a vote in the diſpoſal of the property of the college, muſt excite wonder in all minds not warped by prejudice. The extra licentiates, both in and out of England, who have been examined by the college, are only about twenty-three in number, and cannot practiſe in, or within ſeven miles of, the metropolis.

In London, the uſual fee for attending a patient is one guinea every ſecond viſit, and half a guinea, if the doctor is conſulted at home. But in the country, when long attendance is required, ſome phyſicians have adopted different modes, as a weekly fee adapted to the circumſtances of their patient.

Proposed Regulations.—As the lives of perſons, throughout the country, are alike deſerving the attention of the legiſlature, it would appear reaſonable to expect, that every perſon practiſing, in whatever part of the kingdom, ſhould be equally obliged to qualify himſelf for ſo important a truſt; and give proof of having done this, by ſubmitting to an examination; and that a ſevere penalty ſhould be inflicted on all

who attempt to practiſe without ſuch previous qualifications.

With reſpect to the preſent diviſion, into phyſician, ſurgeon, apothecary, and man-midwife, under which the profeſſion is practiſed, whether it is either neceſſary or uſeful, demands to be conſidered; for as the ſame complicated machine is the object to be relieved by either, the laws and economy of which form the enquiry of all; and nature having frequently ſo mixed diſeaſes, that to form a true judgment, and afford the neceſſary aſſiſtance, all parts of the profeſſion ſhould be equally underſtood, it would appear, that to qualify for, and practiſe the whole, under the name of Doctor of Phyſic, (or rather Doctor of Health,) as is done in Scotland and America, would be attended with much advantage to the public. Should each perſon qualify to practice in all the departments of the profeſſion, ſmall fees ſhould then be taken, as 5s. or 10s. 6d. each viſit, with extra fees for all the larger operations; and all medicines preſcribed, might be furniſhed free of further expence, from the doctor's own houſe. The motto, 'pay me while in pain,' ſhould ever be had in view, in the practice of the healing art; and it

ſhould always be underſtood, that the fee is for advice or aſſiſtance, not medicines; but as remedies may occaſionally be wanted, which have formerly been preſcribed, without further advice, to obviate any difficulty from this circumſtance, a certain and ſmall ready-money price might be affixed on each kind of medicine, when ſent for without a conſultation.

When conſulted at home, half the uſual fee only might be taken; and when the diſtance was above one mile, one ſhilling or more, for each mile afterwards, ſhould be added to the uſual fee. Though all doctors might not become, even by practice, ſufficiently dexterous in perfoming the more dangerous operations, this would be no conſiderable objection; for, when each had, by a general education, become acquainted with every department of the profeſſion, particular abilities would ſtill find their level, and each would be employed to preſcribe, or operate, as inclination might lead, or the public opinion ſhould obtain in his favour.

Should the practice be thus regulated, each doctor ſhould have at leaſt two pupils, one of whom ſhould be employed, in the ſhop or elaboratory, during the firſt period

of

of his apprenticeſhip; ſuppoſe three years: when, always reſigning this employ to a junior, the remaining three years (ſix being the term) ſhould be entirely devoted to ſtudy and attention to diſeaſes, under the immediate care of the principal, who ſhould be expected, not only to inſtruct his pupil in the theory of botany, chemiſtry, pharmacy, anatomy, ſurgery, and midwifery, and to furniſh him with books on theſe and other ſubjects connected with the healing art; but alſo to make him practically acquainted with all thoſe ſubjects, under his own immediate inſpection. A youth, intended for the profeſſion, might, before indented, be examined by the practitioners of the county hoſpital where he ſhould reſide; or the college, if in London, as to his fitneſs for the profeſſion; when, on being allowed, he might ſerve from the age of fifteen to twenty-one; after which he ſhould be obliged to attend the county hoſpital, (if in the country), where every department of the profeſſion ſhould be taught and practiſed, for at leaſt one year, and paſs an examination; and a like period in an hoſpital of the metropolis, or ſome Engliſh or foreign univerſity, where both theory and practice were

taught: when, on paſſing a ſecond examination, a licence or diploma ſhould be given; and no one ſhould be ſuffered to practiſe, without ſuch previous qualifications, in any part of the kingdom, under a ſevere penalty, half to the informer.

When it is conſidered how many, who require a phyſician, can but ill afford a guinea, and how expenſive an illneſs becomes with phyſician and apothecary, the latter having no requital for his attendance, but in the quantity of medicines he may ſend in; that the perſon, who has been made practically acquainted with pharmacy, and who, by having been uſed to operate on the human body, can bleed his patient, ſtay the hemorrhage from a divided artery, reduce a fracture or diſlocation, or aſſiſt in the dangerous caſes of childbirth, can alone be uſeful in the ſeveral caſualties to which his patient is liable, (all of which every practitioner ſhould certainly underſtand): when, I ſay, theſe and other conſiderations, which will hereafter be noticed, are duly weighed, the idea of mixing the profeſſion, as nature has frequently mixed diſeaſes, will, to the candid, appear neither wild nor viſionary. The profeſſion, however, being at preſent

divided

divided in the metropolis and the larger towns, I ſhall conſider each diviſion ſeparately, though I am inclined to think the plan of general education and general practice would be the beſt, both for the public and the profeſſion, throughout all parts of the country.

The phyſician then, provided botany, pharmacy, and chemiſtry were not only theoretically, but alſo practically purſued during his ſtudies, and he were alſo well accuſtomed to operate on brutes and the human body, might practiſe, as at preſent, for moderate fees, under advantages hereafter to be mentioned: it, however, deſerves to be conſidered, whether his preſcriptions ſhould not be written in Engliſh, and the quantities wrote at length, inſtead of being marked in characters ſo nearly reſembling each other, as to have given riſe to fatal miſtakes; but if myſtery muſt ſtill be kept up in recipes, it yet would appear that the quantities being expreſſed in a leſs ambiguous manner, and the direction for taking or uſing the remedy, which, at any rate, the patient or his friends muſt know, being wrote in plain Engliſh, cannot be objected to by the greateſt advocates for ſecreſy. Indeed the latter

is now done in common by one or more phyſicians of great reſpectability in this city.

Surgeon.—The Corporation of Surgeons, like the College of Phyſicians, is managed by a few perſons, the maſter, wardens, and court of aſſiſtants, twenty-one only, who claim the whole command of the revenue, and other affairs of the company; the town ſurgeons, who pay about 28l. on obtaining what is called the grand diploma after examination, (from three to four hundred in number), having no more to do with the direction of the company's funds, or the conferring of its honours than their own beadle. Indeed, if a member attends the annual dinner, by paying 15s. he may have the honour of taſting their veniſon, and drinking the health of his governors, the maſter, wardens, and court of aſſiſtants. When, however, a quarterly contribution, or a demonſtrator to the anatomical lecture over a criminal, is wanted, he is then conſidered qualified in his turn, though not to vote in making the laws by which he is to be governed, or even for thoſe who make them.

Proposed Regulations.—As the ſtudies of the phyſician and ſurgeon generally

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are, and always ought to be, directed to the ſame end, and diſeaſes frequently are complicated, I ſee no reaſon why a perſon, who has qualified and been examined for either, ſhould not be at liberty to practiſe in either or both, as occaſion may require or himſelf may prefer; and when we know how often the patient, and even the practitioner, is unable to claſs the diſeaſe to either ſeparately, and the difficulty and expence of employing both, with the addition of an apothecary; I am of opinion that combining the two, as before ſuggeſted, would be attended with many advantages. But if they muſt be conſidered ſeparate profeſſions, let thoſe who are able draw the line clearly, and each be expected to qualify for his own; furniſhing each the remedies he preſcribes, or ſending all preſcriptions to the apothecary, as the law ſhall order. In caſe the ſurgeon ſhall be allowed to ſend his own medicines, botany, chemiſtry, and pharmacy, ſhould be practically ſtudied. Indeed ſuch knowledge being indiſpenſable to all who preſcribe, ſhews the propriety of general education and general practice; for, who that has ſpent any time in a ſhop, does not know that recipes are ſometimes wrote both by the phyſician

ſician and ſurgeon, which would not have been, had a practical knowledge of pharmacy formed, as it ought to have done, a part of all medical and chirurgical education. The ſurgeon then, like the phyſician, ſhould be examined as to his fitneſs for the profeſſion, before he was articled, being not younger than fifteen years. He then, if approved, might ſerve ſix years, as before ſtated, not to make medicines only, but alſo to ſtudy diſeaſes, and every part of ſcience connected with the healing art, for the firſt three years. He then ſhould practically mature the theory he had attained, under the eye of his inſtructor, for the remainder of the term; after which he ſhould attend a county hoſpital, and an Engliſh, or foreign college, for at leaſt one year each, and be examined before allowed to quit either; after which, on obtaining a diploma, he might be allowed to begin practice on his own account. But, without ſuch previous qualifications and examinations, no one ſhould be allowed to preſcribe or operate throughout the kingdom, under ſevere penalty, one half to the informer. That a youth, who has paſſed only for a ſurgeon's mate, after a ſlight examination, ſhould have the power to ſettle in London,

don, and have all the privileges of a town ſurgeon, whoſe examination has been ſtrict, and who has paid a fine of 28l. is a hardſhip which calls for a remedy. If thoſe, who have ſerved in the army or navy, are to have recompence, let it be ſuch as not to interfere with the rights of individuals, or to injure the public: to be allowed to attend gratis, to qualify for a diploma, or a ſmall pecuniary allowance, might anſwer the purpoſe, without public injury.

APOTHECARY.—The public abuſes of this company far exceed any thing noticed in the other two; for, beſides the bye-laws which a few of theſe gentlemen make, to favour themſelves and bind the majority, inſtead of guarding the public againſt quacks and pretenders, who have had no means of becoming acquainted with the profeſſion, they have, on the contrary, become wholeſale druggiſts and chemiſts themſelves, and their monopoly, as a trading company, and exceſſive profits, have tempted many of the wholeſale druggiſts to become of their body; but any perſon, who has not even ſerved a few years to a druggiſt, may begin in any part of the nation, to practiſe as an apothecary, and may prey on the lives of

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the people with impunity, provided he does not interfere with the lucrative monopoly, which the credit of a charter has given to this company. Indeed, the trade of late has afforded ſuch advantages from the navy and army, the former of which are obliged to deal with them only, that the man-trap, of 100l. admiſſion fine, is now ſet to deter intruders; though all now admitted are only ſuffered to partake of the ſweets gradually, and in ſuch portions as their maſters think needful and ſalutary.

That theſe gentlemen, after becoming themſelves the largeſt wholeſale druggiſts and chemiſts in the kingdom, ſhould continue to enjoy the right, by law, to viſit the ſhops of all apothecaries, druggiſts, and chemiſts, in or near London, in company with two phyſicians, whenever they may think proper, and have the power to deſtroy all drugs, &c. which they, in their wiſdom, may not approve; and thoſe reſiſting ſearch, being liable to 10l. penalty, ſhew, beyond controverſy, that the profeſſion wants legiſlative interference. If wiſdom or profit is to be ſubjected to monopoly, it ſhould be only for the public advantage, and not to enrich a few individuals, who leave diſeaſes to the

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care of any pretender, provided they are ſuffered to eat their veniſon, and ſail in their gilded barge without interruption; in which their extravagant profits enable them often to indulge. That their profits are enormous will not be doubted, when it is known, that many of their members, who are all ſerved thirty-five per cent. cheaper than other apothecaries, ſhould ſtill find it to their intereſt to purchaſe many of their articles, both drugs and chemicals, at another market; which I know to be the caſe.

PROPOSED REGULATIONS.—The apothecary then, ſhould either be obliged, like the phyſician and ſurgeon, to obtain a regular education in every department of the healing art, including chemiſtry, botany, and pharmacy, by ſerving a regular apprenticeſhip, (being firſt examined as to his fitneſs for the profeſſion, like the others) of ſix years; half ſpent in a ſhop or elaboratory, and the remainder in ſtudy and attendance on the ſick, under a proper inſtructor; after which he ſhould attend a county hoſpital, where both theory and practice are ſuppoſed to be taught, for at leaſt one year; and the like period in a public college or hoſpital in England or elſewhere; and after paſſing an

 examination,

examination, and obtaining a certificate on quitting each, ſhould then be allowed to practiſe in any part of England.

In this caſe, the apothecary, having obtained an education equal to a phyſician, ſhould be entitled to a fee every attendance, with pay for his medicines only, when a conſultation ſhould not be required; and which charge ſhould of courſe be much leſs than at preſent, when advice is not paid for. Should it be obſerved, that I am deſcribing the apothecary exactly like the phyſician; I anſwer, if he ſhall continue to preſcribe, I do not wiſh to deſcribe him otherwiſe; as in that caſe I think it indiſpenſable that he ſhould, conformable to the former motto, 'pay me while in pain,' receive a fee of ſome magnitude each viſit; and that he ſhould, to practiſe in any part of England, not only purſue the regular mode of education, before laid down, but alſo give proof of his ability for ſo important a truſt, by undergoing one or more examinations. Were all who preſcribe, thus qualified, a perſon, in ſending for an apothecary, would be ſure of meeting with a man of talents; and ſurely thoſe who are generally firſt conſulted, even by families of opulence, and perhaps in the only ſtage of the diſeaſe, where any

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thing can be done to ſave life, ſhould have qualifications adequate to the taſk; or that many muſt ſuffer the loſs of their deareſt relatives and friends, no one will heſitate to allow. The apothecary, in this caſe, receiving an adequate fee for his attendance, would ſend his medicines in the leaſt bulky and leaſt nauſeous form; and inſtead of being qualified to perſuade his patient to take, and to ſend him boluſes, drops, powders, and ſlops, as at preſent, a quart of diluted hydrogene or oxygene gas, for his patient to breathe, or a few grains of antimonial powder for him to take in jelly, or of calomel or emetic tartar to rub into the ſurface of the body, would equally procure him a fee for his attendance, and relieve his patient from the diſguſting neceſſity of ſwallowing the contents of ſome dozens of phials, on each ſlight indiſpoſition; with which, however, he muſt at preſent comply, or elſe his apothecary, perhaps a man of worth and talents, muſt live diſtreſſed, and at his death, leave a family for the bounty of ſome public charity, or friend to provide; after their father had, in an anxious and arduous employ, probably ſacrificed his life for the public advantage. Some author has ſaid,

God and the doctor you alike adore,
Juſt on the brink of ruin, not before;
When you get well, they're both alike requited,
God is forgotten and the doctor ſlighted.

Any one who knew how often this happens, would not heſitate to allow every one who has ſpent his time and fortune in qualifying for the profeſſion, to take a fee while his ſervices are freſh in memory: the liberal will requite every one; the ſelfiſh ſhould be obliged to do ſo, while their intereſt requires it to be done.

As the apothecary deſcribed above would very properly deſerve to be conſidered as a phyſician, although he ſhould keep a ſhop or elaboratory, if it is thought better that the phyſician and ſurgeon, or both under one title, as Doctor of Health, only ſhould be allowed to preſcribe, I ſee no objection to the regulation. In this caſe, the apothecary would be, with the difference hereafter to be propoſed, what the druggiſt or chemiſt is now. The only education which would then be abſolutely neceſſary to the apothecary, would be to have ſerved a regular apprenticeſhip in a ſhop and elaboratory; to have an adequate knowledge of drugs; and to have been made well acquainted with both the theory and practice of botany,

ny, chemiſtry, and pharmacy; to aſcertain which, an examination might be undergone before he was allowed to begin buſineſs. If the apothecary ſhould be thus placed, all preſcriptions, wrote by the phyſician or ſurgeon, ſhould be made only by him: beſides which, he ſhould apply electricity; prepare all chemicals, and other remedies uſed in medicine; alſo the different factitious airs; and, in ſhort, furniſh every article for diſeaſes, which was ordered by the phyſician or ſurgeon. He ſhould keep his ſhop or elaboratory furniſhed according to the Pharmacopæias of the Colleges of Phyſicians and Surgeons, and he alone being allowed to retail drugs or medicines, and his buſineſs being in his elaboratory or ſhop, could then afford to furniſh good medicines at an eaſy expence. The phyſicians or ſurgeons in a body might be allowed to examine into the quality of his drugs and chemicals, when they ſhould think proper, and be obliged to do it at ſtated times; but inſtead of being allowed, as at preſent, to deſtroy bad or damaged articles, they ſhould take a ſpecimen of each, and ſealing them up in the preſence of the owner, they might be ſubmitted to the whole college, or a com-

mittee appointed for the purpoſe at ſome ſtated period; when, on being found adulterated or baſe, they might be deſtroyed, or a fine might be inflicted. Any one preparing chemicals or preſcriptions, without ſuch examination and licence, ſhould be ſubject to a ſevere penalty, half to the informer.

Whether the at preſent ſeparate branches of phyſician, ſurgeon, and man-midwife, ſhall be jointly practiſed, under the general name of Doctor of Health, each furniſhing the remedies he preſcribes, and the druggiſt only retailing drugs; whether the phyſician and ſurgeon only ſhall be allowed to preſcribe, the apothecary becoming a retail chemiſt and druggiſt, and making up all preſcriptions, (the druggiſt dealing in drugs wholeſale only); or whether, beſides the excluſive right of preparing all medicines, and retailing drugs, and both preparing and retailing chemicals, the apothecary ſhall continue to viſit and preſcribe under certain limitations, or even at home only, are matters which deſerve ſerious conſideration. One thing, however, ſhould be inſiſted on, viz. that all who are by law allowed to attend on the ſick, and preſcribe for diſeaſes, or to operate on the human body, ſhould have properly

qualified

qualified for the taſk, and given proof of having done ſo; and then be rewarded; when conſulted, as men of education, who devote their time and talents to the public ſervice, have a right to expect; which reward, I preſume, they can only receive by taking regular fees during the illneſs.

MIDWIFERY.—When it is admitted that childbirth is not a diſeaſe, but a natural effort of the mother, to relieve herſelf at a period aſſigned, we cannot but wonder, that it ſhould be thought neceſſary for female delicacy to be thrown aſide, and men employed on all common occaſions.

Without referring to the ſtory of Eve and the apple, the philoſophic mind will enquire how it happens that women, in civilized ſociety, ſhould require more aſſiſtance, and incur greater danger, than women in a ſtate of nature. Dr. J. C. Lettſom, in a pamphlet, deſerving the conſideration of mothers, has given an opinion, that the tight lacing, which females from a very early age are ſubjected to, and which preſſure, from being gradually increaſed, becomes extreme, without being particularly irkſome, has a tendency to leſſen the evolution and growth of the breaſts, rendering ſuckling, in many caſes,

either difficult or impracticable; and that this tight lacing, together with the weight of petticoats, pockets, &c. hanging round the body and hips from childhood, inſtead of being ſuſpended from the ſhoulders; with the ſedentary occupations, and much too ſparing and flimſy plan of living, to which females are often doomed, may probably, in many caſes, contract the womb and parts concerned in parturition, and produce not only the ſickneſs and other complaints, univerſal with females in refined ſociety, in the early period of pregnancy; but alſo moſt of the inconveniences experienced in childbirth; and when we conſider the little inconvenience that is experienced by negro women, and others whoſe bodies have not been contracted or diſtorted by dreſs, poor living, and a ſedentary life while young, we cannot but ſee much reaſon to refer theſe evils to natural cauſes dependant on ourſelves, and which it is in our own power, in a great meaſure, to remove. A few weeks ago, a Welch girl, about twenty, came into the New Compter in the evening, under pretence of being deſtitute. Looking big, and appearing but poorly, ſhe was accuſed, by a female priſoner

ſoner, with being pregnant; this ſhe denied, and was locked up at night in a cell alone; but when the door was opened the following morning, it was found that ſhe had brought forth alone, in the night, a fine female infant. I was called about nine o'clock, when I ordered her up ſtairs into the ſick ward, where ſhe and the infant did well, without any bad ſymptom.

I do not mean to infer that, becauſe females, in a ſtate of nature, retire when in labour, and ſeldom require any aſſiſtance, my fair country-women ſhould imitate ſuch conduct; no, to render their ſex more happy, and of greater weight in the creation, ſhall ever be my aim, convinced that on their happineſs depends our own.

PROPOSED REGULATIONS.—Midwifery, then, I am of opinion, ſhould ever be practiſed by females, except in urgent caſes of difficulty and danger, when only a man ſhould be called in. The women allowed to practiſe in ſo important an art, ſhould, however, be qualified very differently to many who practiſe at the preſent time.

I would then have a young woman well inſtructed in Engliſh and French, articled to an experienced midwife, from the age of

till twenty; the former part of which time might be ſpent as a nurſe to lying-in women, where ſhe ſhould be employed to manage and regulate every thing required by the mother or infant; particularly the diet and clothing proper for each, as well as in adminiſtering every medicine, and obſerving its effects, that ſhould be directed by her tutoreſs, or a doctor.

After having ſpent about two years in this way, and acquainted herſelf with the theory of midwifery, infantile diſeaſes, &c. both from books, inſtruction, and obſervation, the young lady ſhould then ſpend the remaining two years in accompanying her tutoreſs to every woman ſhe ſhall attend; and, after obſervation and proper inſtruction, ſhould then begin herſelf to render the neceſſary aſſiſtance; and continue occaſionally to do ſo, but always under the inſpection of her inſtructor. After having completed her four years apprenticeſhip, or ſix, if more approved, ſhe ſhould then ſpend one year at leaſt under a male teacher, in ſome public inſtitution, where female pupils only were admitted, and where both theory and practice, treatment of infantile diſeaſes, &c. ſhould be regularly taught; after which,

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a board of male or female practitioners, or both, ſhould examine her qualifications for beginning practice; and, on being found qualified, ſhe ſhould then have a licence; and, every one preſuming to practiſe, without firſt having ſo qualified, and obtained ſuch licence, in any part of England, ſhould be ſubjected to a ſevere penalty, half to the informer.

Theſe midwives might be enjoined, in all caſes of difficulty or danger, to call in a phyſician or ſurgeon; and in caſe any woman or infant ſhould die under their hands, without this having been done, where, from the nature of the caſe, time was allowed for calling in ſuch aſſiſtance, the midwife might be fined, and for a ſecond offence, interdicted practice for a time, or altogether.

When a phyſician or ſurgeon was conſulted during labour, (and as he would attend to give advice for a moderate fee, this might always be done, where there was the leaſt apprehenſion of danger to mother or child), after adviſing with the midwife, he might then retire, unleſs in caſes of danger, and when his aſſiſtance was abſolutely required; but ſhould it be neceſſary, he might pay further viſits at times appointed, the

midwife

midwife remaining in all caſes. What can be more unneceſſary, or unmanly, than for a ſurgeon or phyſician to neglect his other patients, to ſit by a lady's bedſide, for hours together in a natural labour, which any female of prudence could manage; and ſhould his duty prompt him to leave his patient to purſue other urgent concerns, he may then, by his abſence, create much anxiety, and perhaps the mother or child may ſuffer; for though but little help is in general required, to be preſent is abſolutely neceſſary.

While men only ſhall attend in caſes of childbirth, and the mother and infant are left ſo much in the hands of a nurſe, perhaps an ignorant one, we can never expect the diſeaſes of infants to have that attention which humanity requires; for the nurſe muſt be courted and have her way, leaſt the doctor's intereſt ſhould ſuffer; and until midwives of regular education are employed to attend on their own ſex, and nurſes are alſo obliged, by law, to qualify and obtain a certificate, to follow their occupation, and under the power of ſuſpenſion, in caſe of miſbehaviour; we need not expect that water-pap and Godfrey's cordial, acting as cauſe and cure, will ever be

aboliſhed

aboliſhed from the nurſery. By water-pap, (bread, water, ſugar, and generally carraway or aniſeed,) thouſands of infants annually periſh in this city; for, when the watery gripes are brought on by ſuch food, the nurſe is conſulted, who acts as doctor, and being generally ready provided with a noſtrum, the poor creature, with the pap and the cordial, and ſuch traſh, is reduced to a ſkeleton, and the thruſh ſoon frees it from its perſecutors; and if a doctor happens to be conſulted, he orders medicines, but ſeldom orders a removal of the cauſe; without which, all medicine muſt prove uſeleſs. Were mothers to decline tea and ſuch ſlimſy diet, for one more nutritive and more agreeable to this climate, they would generally be enabled to perform the great office of a mother; but when, from any cauſe the breaſt milk is wanting, it ſhould be ſupplied with good cows milk, mixed with ſhip-buiſcuit, tops and bottoms, ruſks, &c. or with the juices of animals, as good broth of freſh meat, or beef tea, with ruſk or biſcuit; or with tapioca, ſago, and the like; not bread, ſugar, and water, on which a whelp or a kitten would pine and die. When teeth are formed, good milk, animal, and farinacious foods, well prepared,

prepared, are proper; and not tea, bread, butter, and porter only, on which latter, however, both nurſe and child, in and near London moſtly exiſt. I am not here to give the prevention or cure of diſeaſes in detail; but hope the above hints may prove uſeful. When females ſhall be taught by philoſophy all moral good, and the health and education of their offspring ſhall conſtitute their chief employ and happineſs, then will many of the now prevailing diſeaſes of children be totally eradicated, and a new race, with bodies and minds fitted to protect and ſuccour in their turn, will then do honour to their parents and their country.

To thoſe, who object to the capacity or dexterity of females, for attending their own ſex in childbirth, I reply,

In education all the difference lies,
Women, if taught, would be as brave and wiſe
As haughty man, improv'd by arts and rules,
Where God makes one, neglect makes twenty fools.

CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST.—I have already ſaid, that whoever makes up and ſends out medicines, ſhould prepare his own chemicals; and if this is done by the apothecary, it ſhould be according to printed

printed forms, laid down by the College of Phyſicians, and the Corporation of Surgeons, his ſhop and elabarotary being liable to be inſpected by them; but as ſome articles might not be worth the preparing by every individual apothecary, a common elaboratory ſhould be eſtabliſhed, under the like inſpection, in which every apothecary, in or within ſeven miles of London, ſhould be entitled to inveſt a certain portion of his property, and have a vote in the direction; and if thus regulated, the preſent hall might fully anſwer the end; but the company ſhould then wholly give over dealing in drugs, or retailing of chemicals; for, as every apothecary would be a judge of the drugs he uſed, the wholeſale only ſhould ſtill be left to the druggiſt, but the retail, of courſe, to each individual apothecary. A like elaboratory, on a ſimilar plan, ſhould be eſtabliſhed in every county town in the kingdom, as the joint property of all the apothecaries in the county, who might chuſe to be ſubſcribers, and liable to be inſpected by the phyſicians and ſurgeons of the reſpective county.

The druggiſt then ſhould only deal by wholeſale to the apothecary, army, and navy,

vy; or, in other words, ſhould become a drug merchant, keeping a warehouſe, inſtead of a ſhop: and when it is conſidered, that however many partners there may be in a houſe, their attention is directed to travelling for orders, attending 'Change, and keeping their books; and that the chemicals, even preparations of mercury and antimony are left to ſome labourer, generally ignorant of the principles of chemiſtry, and perhaps only able to purſue the beaten track of the houſe, it is matter of wonder that public elaboratories, under the inſpection of thoſe who preſcribe medicines, have not long ago been eſtabliſhed, for the public advantage, at leaſt in every county town of England. If it were not that a great number of reſpectable men, who have embarked their capitals as druggiſts, would be greatly injured, a warehouſe of genuine drugs, of the beſt quality, might be kept as the joint property of the apothecaries of each county, as well as an elaboratory; but as ſophiſtication can in ſimple articles generally be detected by careful obſervation of their appearance or operation, provided the druggiſt were obliged to forego all right to prepare chemicals or compound medicines, he might ſtill

be

be reſorted to in all caſes, as a wholeſale druggiſt; but, where the public good requires legiſlative regulation, as in the preparation of all chemicals and medicines, no individual intereſt ſhould prevent its taking place.

DENTISTS, OCULISTS, AND HERNIARIES.—Theſe alſo abound in this metropolis. Why a ſurgeon ſhould think it leſs his buſineſs to draw a tooth, extract a cataract, reduce a hernia and apply a proper bandage, or apply cupping glaſſes to a patient, than to ſet a broken leg or arm, or to bleed, I am at a loſs to diſcover. Tooth-drawing is an operation to which moſt perſons are obliged to have recourſe, and ſeveral lives have been loſt, by this operation being improperly done. Ruptures, it is known, are alſo a very common and a very dangerous diſeaſe, and often require the niceſt diſcernment, properly to diſtinguiſh their nature; and for want of this diſcernment and anatomical knowledge, truſſes have not only been applied to diſeaſes of a directly different nature, but alſo to ruptures, before the parts protruding have been properly returned; whereby inflammation has taken place, and death has been the conſequence.

That

That to operate on the eye with ſucceſs, both dexterity and anatomical knowledge of the part are required, none will deny; and on cupping being performed ſpeedily and properly life often depends; yet that any mechanic or blackſmith, may perform any or all of theſe operations, even in the metropolis, with impunity, and maim or mutilate the credulous or unwary daily, is a fact which none will deny.

If a ſurgeon ſhall chuſe to confine himſelf to operations on the teeth or eyes only, after a regular education, there can then be no objection; but certainly no perſon ſhould be allowed to preſcribe medicines, or to perform any operation on the human body, throughout the country, but ſuch as have qualified by regular ſtudy, and have been examined and allowed by the legal authority ſo to do.

EMPIRICS, OR QUACKS.—While perſons, who have purchaſed diplomas from Scotland or elſewhere, without ſtudy, are ſuffered to practiſe as phyſicians or ſurgeons, in every part of England, except London, Oxford, or Cambridge, it looks as if the remainder of the country were out of the juriſdiction of the legiſlature; and while this

is permitted, and while a carpenter, a gingerbread-baker, an oſtler, or a pedlar, ſhall be allowed to call himſelf doctor or ſurgeon, even in the metropolis, and by the glare of a fine carriage, the pageantry of his liveries, fictitious advertiſements, the inſpection of urine, or other conjuration, to delude and deſtroy the credulous and the unwary, it will be folly to expect any confidence in, or liberality towards, thoſe regularly educated in the profeſſion; who, however, have been legally protected, as well as the public in moſt countries of Europe, except our own, where thoſe peſts of ſociety, quack doctors, or quack ſurgeons, are prohibited under ſevere penalties, and even under the infliction of corporal puniſhment.

If a man ſhould make any diſcovery in medicine, likely to be uſeful to the country, let him make it known to the College of Phyſicians, or Corporation of Surgeons; and, on their deliberate trial and report in its favour, let him be rewarded by the legiſlature, and the remedy be made public, or prepared and ſold at the public elaboratory in every county-town, for the general advantage.

PHIALS.—The tax on phials is an object deſerving legiſlative attention, for when it is conſidered that a half pint phial now coſts the apothecary 3d. and that a poor perſon can never ſo ill afford to pay a tax, as when viſited by ſickneſs; it is preſumed, allowing for breakage and bad debts, the apothecary, (a character already much oppreſſed) muſt be conſidered as hardly dealt by; and that its place might be ſupplied by ſome leſs grievous impoſt, and which would leſs injure the poor.

PUBLIC HOSPITALS.—The phyſicians and ſurgeons of every county hoſpital throughout England, ſhould deliver lectures, not only on every branch of the healing art; but alſo on general chemiſtry, botany, and experimental philoſophy, for the uſe of thoſe engaged in agriculture or the arts; ſo that a man of fortune, wiſhing to bring up his ſon to agriculture, might eaſily have him experimentally inſtructed in ſuch parts of chemiſtry, botany, mechanics, &c. as a liberal education would require; and that without ſending him to the metropolis, where his morals may often be corrupted, rather than his mind informed. In every county hoſpital the veterinary art ſhould alſo be taught

taught. By the diſſection of brutes, facts uſeful to the knowledge of human anatomy may be obtained; and when it is conſidered, that diſtempers amongſt cattle have at different times rendered proviſions dear and unwholeſome, and greatly diſtreſſed the country; and alſo that both neat cattle, and that noble animal, the horſe, are ſtill, in moſt parts of the country, intruſted to the care of an ignorant blackſmith, who either gives turmerick, diapente, and ſuch uſeleſs traſh, for every diſeaſe, and uſes green ointment, compoſed of verdegreaſe, &c. for every external wound; or, reſorting to more active remedies, of which he knows not the uſe, creates a new diſeaſe inſtead of relieving the old one. We ſhould, from theſe conſiderations, be induced to hope, that the time is not far diſtant, when thoſe who preſcribe for the diſeaſes, or repair the injuries done to the human body, will alſo do the like for the brute creation; or at leaſt preſcribe medicines, and ſuperintend the operator; and that a Pharmacopæia for cattle will ſoon be formed, and reviſed at ſhort intervals, on a plan ſimilar to thoſe of the Colleges of Phyſicians and Surgeons.

Theſe eſtabliſhments being for the gene-

ral good, might be ſupported by a county-rate, which, with voluntary ſubſcriptions, and the fees for examinations, might be laid out in forming a public library in every county-town, of books on all ſubjects of natural knowledge, with complete apparatus for lectures on all the branches of experimental philoſophy; and the phyſicians and ſurgeons ſhould have ſuch liberal ſalaries, as would engage men of the firſt talents, and enable them to act impartially and uſefully.

Public Hoſpitals, particularly in a crowded metropolis, it is well known, are not favourable to the cure of diſeaſes; but as vice, poverty, and diſeaſe, will ever abound in ſuch places, and many of the moſt wretched having no pariſh to which they can reſort, hoſpitals become indiſpenſable in ſuch ſituations; and in county-towns, they ſerve as a receptacle for ſuch poor as muſt undergo the more hazardous operations; and might be made the ſeats of general ſcience, and become the means of diffuſing uſeful knowledge amongſt both ſexes, throughout every part of the country.

Dispensaries and Poor Houses.—Inſtead of Diſpenſaries being confined to the metropolis, or a county-town, they ſhould (while

(while ſo many are ſuffered to exiſt in poverty) be made general throughout the country; but inſtead of a houſe being hired for the purpoſe, at a great expence, the houſe of one or of all the apothecaries in every pariſh ſhould be appointed for the purpoſe, where thoſe who are allowed to preſcribe and operate, be they phyſicians, ſurgeons, or apothecaries, ſhould attend at ſtated times daily; and all who were confined to their beds, ſhould be viſited at their own houſes; the apothecary in all caſes furniſhing the remedies. The expences attending theſe inſtitutions might be defrayed by a pariſh-rate, and voluntary ſubſcriptions from the wealthy; and if, on the report of the gentlemen, who attended the ſick, ſtating the nature of the diſeaſe, ſituation in life, number of children, &c. of the afflicted perſon, by filling up a printed particular, ſuch pecuniary aſſiſtance as the caſe ſhould require were given, and its application attended to, the neceſſity for pariſh poor-houſes would in a great meaſure be done away; and from my own obſervation, having attended the ſick poor in one for ſeveral years, I am of opinion, that the ſooner ſuch inſtitutions were done away altogether, the

more advantageous for every pariſh. There are very few, except the aged and blind, but would, with proper municipal regulations, ſupport themſelves, except when viſited by ſickneſs; when, inſtead of immediate medical or ſurgical aid, and a ſmall ſum of money properly laid out for them, the poor perſons are ſent into the pariſh workhouſe, where nothing but vice and ſloth are generally to be found; and having once loſt the dependance on themſelves, and perhaps no longer poſſeſſed of a habitation, they too often reſign themſelves to ſloth and deſpair, and generally become inhabitants of the poor-houſe for the remainder of their lives.

The Quakers, it has always been remarked, never had any viſible poor. I have heard Dr. Lettſom attribute this chiefly to their never having had a poor-houſe till of late; and the doctor, at the ſame time, expreſſed regret that ever their preſent one at Iſlington was built. The money expended in ſupporting pariſh poor-houſes, I am of opinion, if judiciouſly applied for the poor, at their own or friends houſes, would generally go much farther, and the poor obtain greater relief; and when cured, would again, with a little pecuniary aid, become uſeful members

members of ſociety; particularly if medical aid were in all caſes readily obtained in the beginning of the diſeaſe; and, I preſume, it will be allowed that no poor perſon, of whatever condition, ſhould be ſuffered to languiſh or die without, in any country which is conſidered as civilized.

In this city, a plan has lately been adopted on a large ſcale, for making ſoup according to Count Rumford's plan, (whoſe publication on the ſubject may be bought for a trifle) for ſerving the poor. The ſoup is made chiefly of roots and herbs, with very little meat, at a very cheap rate. A ticket given to a poor perſon, which coſts the donor only 1d. or 2d. entitles him to a quart of good broth or ſoup, which ſerves him for a wholeſome meal. Whether ſome plan of this kind, to furniſh food, and alſo clothing, on ſome cheap regulation, for the poor, inſtead of money, (which is often ill laid out) would not be uſeful in every pariſh, I leave to the conſideration of thoſe to whom the care of the poor more immediately belongs.

The apothecary, furniſhing medicines to the pariſh poor, ſhould of courſe be liberally paid; and why thoſe who practiſe as phyſicians or ſurgeons to public inſtitutions,

ſhould, in many caſes, have no reward for their ſervices, or ſuch only as ariſes in fees from their pupils, I am at a loſs to conjecture. I have known near two thouſand pounds ſpent by two gentlemen in a conteſt for the office of ſurgeon to a diſpenſary; and a few weeks ſince a worthy man is ſaid to have loſt his life from the fatigue of canvaſſing for a ſimilar office.

Do the clergy or the gentlemen of the law do buſineſs for nothing? Is the healing art then leſs neceſſary, or leſs honourable? That it is leſs neceſſary, none, I truſt, will advance; and if leſs honourable, it can only ariſe from want of proper legiſlative regulation. Poor married women, who could not afford to pay a midwife, ſhould be attended at the pariſh expence by a woman, and in dangerous caſes by a doctor or ſurgeon. This would afford a ſource of practice for the young women who were ſtudying the art, and for thoſe who wiſhed to acquire experience.

To prevent abuſes on the pariſh by objects not really diſtreſſed, a regiſtry of perſons relieved with medical aſſiſtance or money, might be kept, a certificate required, to obtain

tain relief, or any other mode might be adopted to anſwer that end.

Theſe regulations can only apply to ſuch poor who ſuffer bodily injury, or are afflicted with ſickneſs; or poor women in child-birth; but as many of both ſexes, in large towns particularly, are deſtitute and friendleſs, through various cauſes, who could reſcue themſelves from their miſerable ſituations, provided the means of effectually exerting their induſtry were provided; ſuch ſhould, in all poſſible caſes, be furniſhed with work, tools, &c. adapted to their ages and capacities, whereby pariſhes would be relieved from heavy burdens, and thouſands preſerved, or reſcued from vice and wretchedneſs.

The poor being attended at the houſe of an apothecary, near their reſidence, or viſited daily at their own houſes by a phyſician or ſurgeon, at the charge of the pariſh, would by no means do away the advantages of charity from the humane and affluent; each might ſubſcribe to an adjoining apothecary, on terms ſimilar to what is now done to a diſpenſary; and a fund of the donations of the charitable might alſo be eſtabliſhed for finding a nurſe, providing proper

per food, clothing, &c. for ſuch poor as the profeſſional gentlemen attending might conſider proper objects. By theſe means their charity would go much farther, and afford more ſpeedy and effectual relief, than by a diſpenſary conducted at a great expence, in a houſe rented for the purpoſe, with a reſident apothecary, &c. and often at a great diſtance from the objects to be relieved.

Prisons.—While on the ſubject of poor-houſes, I cannot omit a few obſervations on public priſons (which having been, as I am told, wholly overlooked by a magiſtrate who has lately wrote avowedly to point out errors, and propoſe their remedies in the city police) I preſume may not be uſeleſs, particularly as they ariſe from obſervation, having had ſeveral city priſons for many years under my care. The Duke de Liancourt's pamphlet on this ſubject, ſold by Darton and Harvey, for ſixpence, well deſerves the peruſal of all concerned in the regulation of priſons; it deſcribes the economy of the priſon of Philadelphia, where the great axiom has been, '*that the end propoſed in puniſhment ought to be the correction of*

of the guilty, and ſhould include the means of amendment.'

There are in this priſon cells for ſolitary confinement; but the circumſtance I wiſh moſt to notice is, that trades and employments, of different kinds, adapted to both ſexes, are carried on under conſtant inſpection: the priſoner works for his board and clothing, and the hire or purchaſe of his working tools, while in priſon; is alſo obliged to earn enough to diſcharge ſuch fine as is impoſed by his ſentence; for a ſum of money to clothe himſelf; buy proper tools for his buſineſs; pay the expences of his proſecution; and to enable him to begin life on his quitting the priſon; till when, he cannot in any caſe be diſcharged. In London, on the contrary, the conſtables being allowed a fee for each poor creature they take up, frequently bring in to a priſon ten or a dozen unfortunate females in an evening: the following morning the magiſtrate generally commits them to Bridewell for a few weeks; when, inſtead of being employed in ſome uſeful manufacture, or other work which they are capable of performing, cured of their diſeaſes, decently clothed, and learnt ſome uſeful

trade

trade or buſineſs, and having earned a ſum of money, by their own induſtry, to begin life anew, on being releaſed from confinement; theſe poor creatures are, on the contrary, diſcharged, when their term expires, as deſtitute of friends and money as when admitted, to begin the ſame night their former mode of living, having no other reſource; which is certainly only inſulting diſtreſs. But this has been enquired into, and, in a great meaſure, removed by the preſent ſheriffs. Their attention and humanity, aſſiſted by the court of aldermen, will, I have no doubt, ſoon carry into effect ſuch plans for removing the preſent evils, and promoting ſuch regulations and improvements in the ſeveral city priſons, as the crowded and depraved ſtate of this overgrown city will admit; and as ſoon as the city finances will afford the means, it is to be hoped that ſuch a miſerable place as the Poultry Compter will no longer be ſuffered to remain a diſgrace to the metropolis.

Should poor-houſes become leſs wanted for the preſent purpoſes, might not they be made workhouſes for reclaiming a number of thoſe miſerable females, having no pariſh or friends, who are nightly en-

ſnaring our youth? And if a priſoner in Philadelphia can earn his living, clothes, &c. and alſo a ſum of money to enable him or her to begin life in ſome honeſt occupation, and relieve the pariſh or county from future expence, might not the like plan produce ſimilar effects in London?

If the majority of theſe hints ſhould be carried into effect, the country gentlemen may then leave their home with comfort, in the aſſurance that whoever of the faculty reſides near them, muſt of neceſſity have had a regular education, and therefore proper to attend an affectionate wife or a beloved child in his abſence, when perhaps no phyſician is near; and this conſideration ſhould induce ſuch, cheerfully, to ſubmit to a tax in lieu of thoſe on patent medicines, quack advertiſements, and phials; from the comfort of having ſuch a man to attend their families on a liberal and honeſt plan, and alſo to give advice in caſes where his cattle ſhould be attacked with any general diſtemper, or a favourite horſe ſhould require medical or ſurgical aſſiſtance.

Proposals for improving the Healing Art.

I have now considered pretty generally, the regulations under which the healing art might be practised, with greater advantage than at present. I shall now hint how, in my mind, the treatment of diseases also might be much improved. It is well known that lately the Board of Agriculture circulated surveys of each county over the kingdom, with blank leaves, to admit of additions or corrections, which every one, who perused them, was at liberty to make; and when returned, the improvements thus collected were incorporated into the work, which was reprinted for that purpose. The success of this plan warrants my advising a similar one for improving the healing art.

Suppose, then, that a system on each department, as Cullen's Practice of Physic, Winslow's Anatomy, Bell's Surgery, Hamilton's Midwifery, Macquer's Chemistry, Miller's Botany, and Kirwan's Mineralogy, from five hundred to one thousand copies of each work were circulated, either interleaved with white paper, or a blank book of similar size sent with each; suppose every

member

member of the College of Phyſicians and Corporation of Surgeons were to have one copy of each work ſo interleaved; and alſo that about half a dozen copies were ſent to the practitioners in each county hoſpital, copies of the College Diſpenſatory, one for the ſurgeons, and another for the veterinary art, ſhould alſo, together with Gibſon's, Taplin's, or Sain Bell's Farriery, be circulated in like manner and number, with blank leaves: all theſe might be allowed to remain out for one year, when, being returned to the Colleges of Phyſicians and Surgeons, the uſeful matter collected, and the corrections ſuggeſted, might be reviſed and incorporated by a ſelect body, beſt qualified for each department, and the whole of each claſſed and publiſhed as a regular ſyſtem, with plates to thoſe works that required ſuch elucidation. By repeating this at ſtated periods, as once every three, five, or ſeven years, ſuch a ſyſtem might in time be formed on each ſubject, as would do honour to the country, and prove a bleſſing to its inhabitants and to the world. Surely agriculture, the moſt healthy and happy employ of man, is not more important than the healing art; nor the profeſſors of the lat-

ter leſs able or leſs deſirous to add to its uſefulneſs, than the Board of Agriculture have ſhewn themſelves to be in that department.

Language of Physic.—I preſume it is underſtood that all the ſyſtems, I have propoſed thus to circulate, are intended to be printed in the Engliſh language. Whatever the Arabians, Grecians, or Romans have done towards advancing the healing art, we are now in poſſeſſion of; and if a body of phyſicians and ſurgeons were employed to tranſlate, and claſs all that has been written on the healing art, in what is now to us a dead language, with comments and illuſtrations, the work would be both uſeful and curious; but after being thus in poſſeſſion of all their labours, would it ſtill be neceſſary for a youth, perhaps intended for an apothecary, whoſe office it may be only to compound medicines, to be employed ſeveral years in hard labour to attain the Latin language; or might not he have been better qualified to begin the general ſtudy of the profeſſion, had he ſpent the ſame number of years, after a good Engliſh education, in attaining a knowledge of the French language, with that of experimental and natural philoſophy; and more

particularly

particularly of botany, mineralogy, and chemiſtry, the latter ſtudies would certainly prove much more pleaſing, and in my mind more uſeful. When botany ſhall be claſſed in our own tongue, and phyſic freed from the quackery of a dead language, by preſcriptions and books being wrote in Engliſh, then will every man of a philoſophic mind, or who is experimentally informed, be enabled to add his mite towards its improvement; and then may we expect to ſee the diſpenſaries of both the phyſicians and ſurgeons reviſed, and new ones printed, every three, five, or ſeven years, as diſcoveries ſhall be made; and that, inſtead of the phyſicians containing ſix or ſeven hundred articles, which the apothecary is obliged by law now to keep in his ſhop, we may ſee the number greatly reduced; and cochineal, ſaffron, and ſuch like trumpery, which, however, proper for the dyer or the artiſt, can be of no uſe in medicine, when it is preſcribed with an honeſt and uſeful view, expunged from the diſpenſary; and when ingredients for colouring medicines ſhall be no longer wanted, theſe, and many ſuch like, muſt follow the fate of others ſtill more diſguſt-

ing, as human ſcull, dog's t—d, &c. once alſo articles of the diſpenſary. That the London Pharmacopæia of 1791 ſhould contain ſo many as ſix or ſeven hundred articles, for every apothecary to keep in his ſhop, and many of them ſo very inſignificant, reflects no great credit on the attention of the college, or on the ſtate of medical ſcience in this country at that period: that moſt branches of experimental philoſophy, and particularly pneumatic chemiſtry, can be taught and illuſtrated by experiments both ingenious and concluſive, without a critical knowledge of the dead languages, is clearly proved, in the lectures now delivering by my countryman, Mr. Varley, near Hatton Garden, whoſe very extenſive and accurate knowledge of all the ſeveral branches of experimental philoſophy has been acquired by induſtry and application, without ſuch attainment. If a boy can, by ſpending ſix or even twelve months in attaining the rudiments of Latin and Greek, be enabled to trace certain technical words to their ſource, and improve in the knowledge of his own tongue, there can be no objection; but as all that the dead languages contain, uſeful to the healing art, has been, or can be, tranſlated

and illuſtrated, it would appear injurious to conſume the principal part of the time allotted for ſchool education, in attaining only a knowledge of the dead languages. The ſciences, particularly botany, being claſſed and arranged in our own tongue, would enable many to purſue ſo pleaſing and uſeful a ſtudy, who are at preſent deterred from the attempt, from want of a claſſical education; by which the diffuſion of knowlege and happineſs is prevented, and improvements in the arts very much obſtructed.

RECAPITULATION.—We have now ſeen that, in all the principal countries of Europe, the healing art has been taught and practiſed, under regulations more liberal and ſalutary than have been adopted in our own; and when this is the caſe, in countries which we have always been taught to conſider as far behind us in learning, riches, and induſtry, we ſhould, without delay, improve upon all that has hitherto been done in any other country, by a liberal and uſeful legiſlative regulation of the practice of the healing art in our own; ſo as that the whole country, rich and poor, (thoſe who have too long preyed on the public by monopoly or igno-

rance, alone excepted) may be benefited by the change.

We have ſeen, that in other countries, all parts have alike been conſidered as deſerving of legiſlative protection, no one being ſuffered to preſcribe or operate, without regular ſtudy, and giving proofs of his qualification, throughout the whole country; and the remedies uſed, alſo prepared under ſuch legal regulations, as ſecure the ſick from ignorance or ſophiſtication; while, in our own country, any impoſtor, who has 10l. or 15l. to purchaſe a doctor's degree, can practiſe as a phyſician throughout England, even in the metropolis itſelf. Any one may alſo call himſelf a chemiſt and druggiſt, and prepare the moſt active antimonial and mercurial medicines; nay, if he chuſes, he may alſo preſcribe them under the name of an apothecary, man-midwife, &c. and if above ſeven miles from London, he may aſſume the title of ſurgeon alſo, and maim or mutilate the unwary with impunity. Such are the effects of the legiſlature reſigning its right to judge of the country's intereſt, to a few individuals, who are permitted to aſſume the duties of parliament, and make bye-laws injurious to the whole country,

and in which the majority of their own body have not the leaſt concern.

We have ſeen in other countries a regular correſpondence kept up between every diſtrict and pariſh, as well as from the fleets and armies, whereby conſultations and important advantages can be obtained, when epidemics prevail; and which allows a regular regiſter to be made of deaths, diſeaſes, &c. very different from the nonſenſe annually collected by old women in our own country.

We have ſeen that, in countries where it has been thought proper to allow of experts, as dentiſts, oculiſts, &c. that all ſuch have been obliged to ſerve, at leaſt, a few years to a regular ſurgeon, and paſs an examination before obtaining a licence to practiſe; and on being found qualified, are even then not permitted to practiſe (under ſevere penalty) in any other branch of the art, than that which their licence expreſſes. Nay, ſo much has the life of the ſubject been protected in ſome countries, that to perform any hazardous operation, without a previous conſultation, where it could have been had, would be ſeverely puniſhed. Should an apothecary, in thoſe countries, dare to pre-

ſcribe a medicine, or perform an operation, the forfeiture of all he was poſſeſſed of, and to be ſent for a galley-ſlave, would be the penalty; while in England, any one who chuſes is ſuffered both to compound and preſcribe medicines, and to perform hazardous operations on the human body, without either being called to ſubmit to any examination, or having ſerved a ſingle day to any branch of the profeſſion; although ſeveral ſorts of mechanics are not allowed to purſue, in London, the trade they underſtand, even as journeymen, unleſs they have ſerved a regular apprenticeſhip of ſeven years.

We have ſeen that, in ſome countries, ſevere penalties are inflicted on any one who ſhall attempt to vend any empirical medicine or remedy; while in England, this is done not only by itinerants, who travel through every part of the country, but alſo by great numbers, both natives and foreigners, in this metropolis; ſome of whom are ſo ſtupidly ignorant, as not to be able to write their own name, or perhaps even read what the credulous conſider as their hiſtory of diſeaſes; and yet is credulity ſuffered ſo far to be preyed upon, that ſome of theſe vagabonds appear in ſuch ſplendor, as many

men, of great worth and good education, never can expect to attain. Indeed, ſo ſhockingly indecent are moſt of the falſehoods intruded on the public daily, by theſe impoſtors, that a newſpaper is ſeldom fit to meet the eye of a female, or even for the youth of either ſex to look on. If ſuch peſts to ſociety are tolerated, for the advantages obtained by the revenue, let it no longer be ſaid, that however burthenſome our preſent taxes may be, we would not rather ſubmit to ſome freſh impoſt, than that thouſands of our people ſhould fall a ſacrifice to the ignorance of quacks and impoſtors; and that the morals of our youth ſhould be daily debauched by reading their obſcene advertiſements.

We have ſeen, that in ſome countries regular phyſicians and ſurgeons are paid by the government, and in others by each pariſh, to attend all perſons who require medical or ſurgical advice, throughout the country, daily at the ſhop of an apothecary in every diſtrict, and ſuch as require it at their own houſes; the apothecary, in all caſes, furniſhing the remedies preſcribed gratis to the poor, at the charge of the pariſh or of government: and that all poor women are

attended, when in labour, at their own houſes alſo, at the expence of government or the pariſh; while, in our own country, diſpenſaries are all ſupported by the ſubſcription of individuals only, often with a view to accommodate their own ſervants or workmen; ſo that the poor and friendleſs often languiſh, till the diſeaſe is too far gone to admit of cure; or elſe rely on the charitable aid of ſome neighbouring apothecary. Indeed, the diſtance of a diſpenſary is often ſo great, and the numerous attendance frequently cauſing ſuch loſs of time, that many, who are much in want of all their ſmall pittance, often prefer paying a portion of that to an apothecary, rather than apply to a diſtant diſpenſary, at a ſtated hour, three times a week: while others, having no friend who ſubſcribes to a diſpenſary, and not belonging to the pariſh, are, when attacked by ſickneſs, in a ſituation too wretched to be deſcribed; and ſuch frequently are ordered to ſome one of the city priſons, though guilty of no crime, but that of poverty.

We have ſeen that, in moſt countries, colleges and hoſpitals for public inſtruction are liberally ſupported, and the profeſſors paid by the government, pupils attending gratis;

and

and that public libraries, with muſeums annexed, are gratuitouſly reſorted to by ſtudents, and the public. Public gardens, for the improvement of botany and agriculture, with teachers paid by the government, are inſtitutions which many European countries have alſo thought proper to eſtabliſh. That the like eſtabliſhments, adjoining the places of inſtruction, under regulations admitting of as free acceſs as their preſervation would allow, would add to the happineſs and wealth of our own country, none will diſpute.

I have ſaid, that muſeums and botanic gardens ſhould be as near the places of inſtruction as poſſible, and this I conſider one great advantage of a public college; for the teachers being diſperſed in every part of this town, which is ſufficiently crowded and dirty in winter, is an inconvenience which I have myſelf experienced, and which all ſtudents muſt find to conſume much of their time.

We have ſeen, that in ſome countries the buſineſs of the public hoſpitals is conducted under the moſt ſtrict and beneficial regulations: phyſicians and ſurgeons being obliged to attend twice a day, and preſcribe in conſultation; and the junior ſurgeons and

pupils,

pupils, not only obliged to ſee all medicines made up, and given to the patients, but alſo bound conſtantly to reſide in the hoſpital, under the terror of a fine, or of corporal puniſhment, in caſe of abſence without leave. That many of the caſes, in our hoſpitals, are of a nature ſo dangerous, as to require every aid which conſultations and very frequent attendance can give, none will deny: and the very frequent accidents which are brought in, requiring operations immediately to be performed, or which, by being delayed, muſt prove ineffectual, fully ſhew the neceſſity of one or more gentlemen of mature age and experience, always reſiding in the houſe, not as pupils, but with ſuch a ſalary as ſhould require conſtant and uniform attendance.

We have ſeen, that in ſome countries teachers are appointed and paid by the government, for inſtructing females in the practice of midwifery; who, however, are not ſuffered to practiſe, without firſt paſſing a public examination, and obtaining a licence; and that apothecaries are alſo required to be examined, before they can obtain a licence to practiſe; and that in ſome countries a limited number only are allowed;

ed; while in England, inſtead of public inſtitutions, for inſtructing females in an art ſo peculiarly proper to be practiſed only by their ſex, the buſineſs is almoſt wholly in the hands of men, who attend on the moſt common occaſions. And as to the apothecary in England, any perſon that chuſes may aſſume the title, and preſcribe either in town or country.

We have ſeen, that in one country a phyſician and ſurgeon are elected to attend all the inhabitants of each diſtrict, and are paid annually by a general contribution. This plan, if not for the more opulent inhabitants of our own country, would be an uſeful regulation for perſons in moderate circumſtances, who could not afford frequent fees to a phyſician or ſurgeon, but who are ſuperior to the charity of an hoſpital, &c. All the benefit ſocieties, in the country, are thus attended by the year, by a general practitioner; and generally the poor alſo, who are not in a pariſh workhouſe.

I have now given, pretty fully, my ideas how the practice of the healing art might be much improved, for the general advantage; and that legiſlative regulation is much wanted, I truſt every one will allow; but ſhould

parliament

parliament not take up the ſubject, even after a general petition from the faculty, which, however, I ſhould be ſorry to ſuppoſe, then would I adviſe all the apothecaries in the kingdom to do, what the committee of the Pharmaceutical Aſſociation ought to have done; inſtead of applying to parliament, if a partial regulation only was their aim, viz. To appoint a committee in London, and alſo in each county-town, to meet deputations from the wholeſale druggiſts, in a friendly and gentlemanly manner. They ſhould then ſtate the hardſhips they labour under, by the druggiſts making up preſcriptions, and retailing medicines, while themſelves are obliged by law to keep their ſhops well furniſhed with a vaſt number of articles, many of which are periſhable, and ſome, at the preſent time, exceſſively expenſive; and alſo each to keep an aſſiſtant, properly qualified, with an errand boy always in readineſs for emergencies; which, however ſmall his practice, ought to be done.

The druggiſts would then deliberate on an anſwer, which would either be, that they ſaw the complaints reaſonable, and would agree to decline making up any kind of preſcriptions, or retailing any drugs or chemicals;

cals; that they were convinced of the hardſhip, but could afford no relief: or that they ſhould continue to make medicines, ſell retail, and even to preſcribe; bidding defiance to the application. In the latter caſes, the apothecaries would have the remedy in their own hands, which they ſhould then purſue, viz. to agree, under a penalty, not to deal with any druggiſt or chemiſt who refuſed to comply with their application; and even to become wholeſale chemiſts and druggiſts themſelves, by eſtabliſhing in London, and in every county-town, under the inſpection of a regular chemiſt, an elaboratory and a drug-warehouſe, as a joint ſtock; each apothecary inveſting a proportion of the capital, agreeable to his inclination. Or, if this would be illegal, then a ſmall number might do the like, for ſerving each county. If the Pharmaceutical Committee had been leſs diſunited, and leſs intemperate, ſuch an application at that time, would, I doubt not, have obtained from the druggiſts all that the aſſociation then deſired; for ſuch druggiſts, as I then conſulted, would readily have agreed to a general regulation, on liberal and fair terms. Indeed, their intereſts would have ſuffered leſs than at firſt ſight would appear,

appear, as they then might retire to leſs expenſive ſituations, and keep warehouſes inſtead of ſhops, and would be paid more regularly, as the apothecaries became more reſpectable.

The druggiſts deſerve no blame for obtaining the buſineſs of making up preſcriptions. The public were driven away from the apothecary, by his charging for medicines, in the preſcribing of which he had no concern, the ſame as if his advice had been given: if the apothecary did not diſcriminate, the public would. That other branches of the profeſſion would ſtill have had juſt cauſe of complaint, none will deny. General relief and public advantage can only be obtained by a wiſe and liberal act of parliament, leaving nothing to the diſcretion of future bye-laws, to be made by the party whoſe intereſt is often directly contrary to the public advantage.

Remember, man, "the Univerſal Cauſe
"Acts not by partial, but by gen'ral laws,"
And makes what happineſs we juſtly call,
Subſiſt, not in the good of one, but all.

MVSEVM BRITAN-NICVM

FINIS.